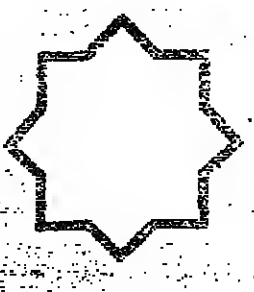


The Star



Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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New Israeli premier sworn in

'Negotiations without prior conditions,' Netanyahu tells Arab leaders

LA Times-Washington Post News Service
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu launched his new government Tuesday in a ceremony in Jerusalem, but he also launched a new era of Israeli politics, as he vowed to pursue negotiations with the Palestinians without any preconditions.

Netanyahu, 50, was sworn in as Israel's 12th prime minister in a ceremony in Jerusalem. He was the first Israeli leader to be elected in a direct election. He was elected on a platform of peace and economic reform.

Netanyahu's government is expected to pursue negotiations with the Palestinians without any preconditions. He has vowed to pursue negotiations with the Palestinians without any preconditions.

The government was voted into power 62-30 in the 120-member legislature, with some members absent. A later, separate vote confirmed Netanyahu as prime minister, but final approval of Sharon's new ministry was put off until Wednesday because it involved peeling off departments from other ministries.

Such horse-trading among coalition partners seeking power to distribute spoils to their constituencies has been a feature of Israeli politics since the Jewish state was founded in 1948. But Netanyahu's eagerness to prevent the reins of authority from landing in others' hands also was intensified by Israel's first-ever direct election of the prime minister on May 29, giving him an extra measure of power over ministers in his cabinet.

The last-minute negotiations overshadowed Netanyahu's inaugural speech, in which he called for Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia to negotiate with Israel without conditions despite his stand that the Golan Heights must remain under Israeli sovereignty. Aides said the protracted wrangling was in his mind as he delivered the 20-minute address in a somber, passionate tone.

The appeal for resuming negotiations with Syria—suspended because of bombings in Israel during the election campaign—was foreshadowed in a set of policy guidelines announced Sunday. And Lebanon, which is largely controlled by Syria, has long marched in tandem with Damascus. But the call for talks with Saudi Arabia seemed striking, since the Saudis have not negotiated with Israel in public about anything and are thought to be waiting for a settlement with Syria before any rapprochement with the Jewish state.

"I call in peace to all the leaders of the Arab states, and I especially call on our close neighbors—to the president of Syria, Hafez Assad, to the president of Lebanon, Elias Hrawi, to Fahd, king of Saudi Arabia, and to all the Arab leaders, let us negotiate directly. Negotiations for peace, which will lead the Middle East into a new age of stability and prosperity," Netanyahu declared. "Negotiations, gentlemen, without any prior conditions, and that is the key: no prior conditions."

Netanyahu also expressed a desire to continue negotiations with Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, set up to administer autonomy enclaves in Gaza and the West Bank. The Palestinians have made it clear they would view a return of Israeli troops to West Bank cities as a violation of the peace agreements, as they would for a strengthening or expansion of the West Bank Jewish settlements.

In his speech, Netanyahu called Jewish settlers "the true pioneers" of Israel and said his government will encourage settlement in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights. The United States views Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza as an obstacle to peace, and held up loan guarantees for immigrant housing during the previous Likud government, when then-Housing Minister Sharon was expanding settlements.

The guidelines rule out Palestinian demands for an independent state in the West Bank with East Jerusalem as the capital. They also assert that Israel will retain sovereignty over the Golan Heights, whose return Syria demands in exchange for a peace agreement.

Reactions to the apparent contradictions in Netanyahu's statements have been split between those who take them at face value and those who argue that many Israeli leaders have

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Hot summit not expected to end up with reconciliation

By Ahmad Shaker
Special to The Star
HIS MAJESTY King Hussein is expected to deliver one of the most important and crucial political speeches at next week's Arab summit in Cairo focusing on the issues of peace, terrorism and Arab reconciliation, informed sources told *The Star*.

The sources said the summit will be the "hottest" in 30 years and that it is expected to adopt a number of resolutions that will determine the course of the Middle East peace process in light of the right wing victory in Israel's elections.

add that a number of Arab countries have already expressed reservations about the convening of the summit, its timing and the circumstances surrounding its set up. No more than seven heads of state are expected to attend, which reflects the political mood in the Arab countries.

Those who confirmed their attendance are King Hussein, Egypt's President Mubarak, Syria's President Assad, Palestinian President Arafat, Lebanon's President Hrawi, Sudan's President Bashir and Bahrain's Sheikh Issa.

It is clear that lack of attendance at the highest level will undermine the summit's success in bringing reconciliation and putting an end to the political consequences of the Gulf War.

Iraq's exclusion from the meeting is also expected to cast its shadow on the participants and their beliefs. Observers already mean that the Gulf War file will remain open and not even an issue for debate.



Another issue which is expected to raise tension at the summit is sponsorship of terrorism by some Arab and regional capitals. Iran's association with recent incidents in Bahrain will feature prominently and it is feared that Syria's close relations with Tehran will come under fire threatening a successful conclusion of the conference.

Jordanian-Syrian relations, which have been strained for months, are not expected to improve especially since Jordan will warn of recent attempts by an Arab capital to interfere in the domestic affairs of countries that have relations with Israel. Jordan has been active in calling for a united stand to oppose attempts to destabilize Gulf countries and King Hussein sent messages to that effect to the leaders of the UAE and Bahrain.

How open will the leaders attending the Cairo summit be in debating such issues is questionable. King Hussein told the *Los Angeles Times* this week that the summit will be hot and that there is a need for openness and sincerity in dealing with issues. He pointed to attempts to destabilize Jordan's security through terrorism.

But the hosts will also try to defuse any political bombshell. Egypt does not want the summit, which it had worked to convene, to end up in failure.

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'The First Lady of Song' Jazz great Ella Fitzgerald's melody lingers on to eternity

By Charlotte Helene Astor
WASHINGTON—Ella Fitzgerald, who outgrew, outlasted and outsang every other jazz singer of her generation, leaves a musical legacy unlikely to be surpassed.

"It was Fitzgerald who almost single-handedly elevated the American popular song to the status of art," music critic Richard Harrington wrote in *The Washington Post*. "In the process, she helped define jazz as 'America's classical music.' And she was the focus of a nation's pride in a native art form."

Fitzgerald, who died June 15 at her Beverly Hills, California, home at age 79, sang professionally for more than six decades. Acclaimed internationally, she recorded 250 albums and won 13 Grammy awards, performing with big bands, symphony orchestras, small groups, and fellow singers and musicians such as Frank Sinatra and Louis Armstrong.

Since the 1940s, she had been called "The First Lady of Song," a title which fit her to perfection. "Her pitch was so true, her intonation so perfect, that band members could tune up to Fitzgerald's voice," Harrington wrote in *The Post*. Eddie Gallaher, a Washington disc jockey and radio announcer since 1946, said Fitzgerald "used notes that musicians wished they could do on their instruments. She had heart. She could do anything—up, down, inside-out."

Her voice, which retained its charm and youthfulness throughout her career, spanned a remarkable range of nearly three octaves. Unlike contemporaries such as Sinatra, who often put their personal triumphs and heartaches into their music, Fitzgerald "has not been an autobiographical singer... nor a character-projecting actress," said Henry Pleasants in *The Great American Popular Singers*.

Although Fitzgerald was faulted by some critics for the lack of emotional pain in her music, this apparent equanimity made her a voice of reassurance and hope. "She offered her listeners her love of melody, joy in singing and delight in public performance

...," Pleasants said. "... Like Louis Armstrong, she always seemed to be having a ball."

Fitzgerald was born in 1917 in Newport News, Virginia. Her mother moved the family to Yonkers, New York, when Ella was young. In 1932, her mother died, and Ella went to live with relatives in New York City's Harlem neighborhood.

She made her stage debut in 1934, winning a talent contest at Harlem's famed Apollo Theater, with her rendition of "The Object of My Affection." Soon after, she began appearing with the Chick Webb Band, and made her first recording in 1935. She achieved mass popularity in 1938 with a swing version of an old nursery jingle, "A Tisket A Tasket," which became a million-seller.

Her next big seller came in 1945, a calypso comic duet with French performer Louis Jordan, "Stone Cold Dead in the Market." In 1947, she had another major hit, George and Ira Gershwin's "Oh, Lady, Be Good."

During the 1940s, Fitzgerald, influenced by bebop instrumentalists such as Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie, began scat singing—a phonetic improvisation to simulate an instru-

mental solo. She perfected her scat technique by using her musical knowledge to match vocally the sound of horns in the orchestra. The resulting sounds, "put to shame many of the best improvising instrumentalists," music critic William Simon wrote in the introduction to Fitzgerald's *Rodgers and Hart Song Book*.

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JORDAN

W E E K

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar

Will they or won't they

■ The government has got itself in a muddle again. This time it is over the removal of bread subsidies. The government now says that it will remove the subsidy on bread prices, but that this will not affect the poor in society. But does that make sense? If you are going to remove the subsidy, then surely this will affect everybody, the rich and the poor, unless you have two price tags. Whatever the case, the government should keep stomp about the whole affair until the committee appointed by the Ministry of Supply makes a full recommendation. According to the Minister of Supply, Munir Sobar, the committee is apparently studying ways of implementing the subsidy policy that has already been agreed upon by the government.



Sobar

It may not be make or break time, but Tawjihi will be the deciding factor for many students. Slightly less than 97,000 pupils are sitting their exams this year. Their will be 1517 halls throughout the country. About 52,000 students are taking the exams in the literary stream and about 26,000 in the scientific stream. More than 6000 students are taking exams in the commercial stream while under 4,000 in the agricultural stream. There are of course other streams such as the industrial, hotels, and nursing.

US, Jordan conduct exercises

■ Sailors and Marines of the US Fifth Fleet and Jordanian Armed Forces will conduct a combined arms training exercise known as Infinite Moonlight 1996, it was announced on Wednesday.

Infinite Moonlight, scheduled for 21 June to 10 July, will allow US Navy amphibious forces and Jordanian Armed Forces to train side-by-side, to enhance their military relations and joint cooperation and coordination. The exercise is part of the ongoing bilateral military program between the United States and Jordan.

US military personnel will arrive by ship in Aqaba and to be transported to the exercise area near Al Qarrana, south of Amman.

Popular delegation visits Iraq

■ Whoever said that Jordan's relationship with Iraq is going from bad to worse must be off his rocker. Well, politically the relationship could be described as cold, but people are still feeling every bit of warmth for their Iraqi brethren as they did during the last Gulf War. Last week witnessed the biggest ever popular delegation from this side to visit Iraq. The delegation's mission, which included trade unionists, politicians, party general secretaries and journalists, was to express solidarity with the Iraqi people against the continuation of the UN sanctions. Former ministers like Abd Al Raouf Al Rawabdeh of the Al Yaqatha Party and Sulaiman Arar of the Al

Mustaqbal were at the forefront. Islamic Action Front deputy, Abdallah Al Akai-leh was also present. The size of the delegation must be seen as an embarrassment to the government, particularly in the wake of the Arab summit which has excluded Iraq from attending.



Al Rawabdeh

Mayor of Amman delivers speech at HABITAT II

■ Mr Shihadeh Abu Hudeib, assistant Mayor of Amman for Planning, delivered a speech on behalf of Mayor Mamdouh Al Abbadi at the Habitat II conference which was held in Istanbul recently in which he underlined the Greater Amman Municipality's role in shaping the future of Arab cities.



Al Abbadi

He pointed to the future of Arab Cities Conference, which was held in Amman last March, and the Amman Declaration of Arab mayors and representatives of local authorities which was based on a number of principles. Among these were poverty eradication and urban development, providing basic services to the cities' most vulnerable population especially women and children and promoting the wider sharing of development opportunities. The mayors, Mr Shihadeh said, also committed themselves to adopt policies based on balanced distribution of resources in line with the principle of sustainable

development. Mr Shihadeh added that among the recommendations adopted were issuing a call for stronger cooperation among cities in the Arab region, strengthening urban planning capacities and ensuring proper legislative cooperation between municipal and local authorities. The participants, Mr Shihadeh added, called for a stronger role for women in the decision-making process at the municipal management levels. The declaration encouraged community-based organization and initiatives particularly in poor urban areas through grass-root participation in the decision-making process. The declaration, Mr Shihadeh added, also called for strengthening the role of national and regional funding institutions to finance urban projects.

Israeli tourists top the mark

■ Over 100,000 Israelis visited Jordan since October 1994, when the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty was sealed. Mr Emad Fakhoury, Jordan's commercial attache in Tel Aviv told the Industrial-Commercial Club that Israeli tourists just kept coming to Jordan. Plenty, Israeli tourists are seen so stately by locals. They even bring their sandwiches with them!

More bridges to lead to brighter future

■ Talks about togetherness, and bingo, we have it. Jordan and Israel are to build more bridges across the Jordan River. This is no doubt to increase the expected two-way traffic between the two sides of the divide. The Israeli Public Works Dept. will build one bridge at a cost of \$3.5 million. Jordan will build the other bridge with financial aid from the Japanese. Those bridges are expected to open by the end of the month.

Al Ayed for PDP

■ Our own Hassan Al Ayed may become the next director



Jalal Rifai/Ad Dussour

Jordan, Saudi Arabia sign Memo

■ Jordan and Saudi Arabia signed a memorandum last week that stresses the importance of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries as well as enhancing bilateral cooperation in the fields of transportation, communication, health, agriculture, education and media. The memo was signed by Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb and his Saudi counterpart Jafar Al Faqih. Abul Ragheb said that meetings of the joint Jordanian-Saudi committee are held due to efforts made by the two sides with a view to developing cooperation between them.



Conferences

■ A seminar entitled Food or Insecurity will be held at Yarmouk University in Irbid on 18 June. The seminar which will talk about the vulnerability of food supplies, soil erosion, bad harvests and the notorious topic of Mad Cow disease is jointly organized by the Jordan Environment Society and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation. The topic is timely since there is present decline in grain yields in the world. By 1995, the wheat yield declined by 2.9% over 1994. Grain stocks are now run down to 267 million tons and are enough to cover the world grain supply for the next 45 days. It is suggested that there 1996 will experience another food shortage mainly because the world grain producers, the USA and Canada are experiencing a bad grain harvest. World grain prices have shot up by 70 percent. Also fish catches are declining globally and prices, for meat and fish are continuously rising.



Al Ayed

New head of ICRC in Amman

■ Jacques de Maio has assumed his duties as new head of the ICRC Delegation in Jordan, succeeding Yves Giovannoni who ended his two-year-long mission. Mr de Maio comes to Jordan with an operational experience especially in

politics.

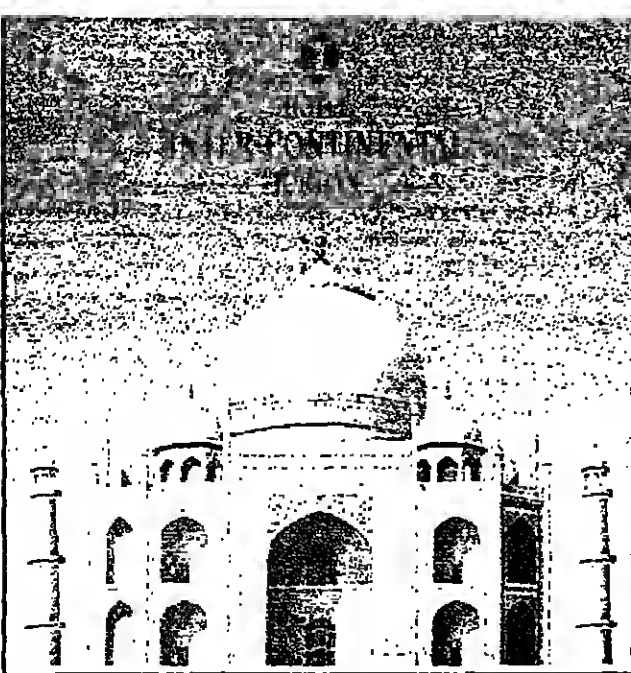
his latest position as protection coordinator in former Yugoslavia. However, Mr de Maio is not totally new to the Middle East where he earlier served in the ICRC delegations of Kuwait, the Occupied Territories and Israel. He has also served in ICRC missions in Peru, Azerbaijan, Uganda and Rwanda. Mr de Maio is married with two children.

Lower House to convene in July

■ Parliament should be back in business in the first week of July according to informed sources. The extraordinary session is expected to discuss and pass a number of important laws, one of which is the Illicit Gains draft law. Apparently, this has been on the top government agenda. The draft laws of Jordan Press Association, Petra News Agency and Television and Radio Corp., will also be presented at the extraordinary session. Discussions of these draft laws is expected to heat up since the legislators will find themselves debating some controversial issues such as the definition of a journalist and the right of others to set up their own radio and TV stations.

It's Tawjihi time!

■ With palms sweating, Jordanian students sat the first part of the Tawjihi exam this week.



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By Harry Pullens
Special to The Star

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN which included educators, writers, sociologists, lawyers, economists and civil right activists convened for a two-day workshop on the improvement of the status of women and their empowerment at the Queen Zein Al Sharaf Complex for Social Development. It was organized by the American Center in Amman.

Besides, a reconsideration for the universally known problems of high rates of illiteracy, poverty and unemployment among women, other issues that came under discussion included, management, sustainability and networking of women resource centers and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Kingdom and beyond.

Participants argued it is not

Seminar focuses on improving status of women in Arab world

only Arab society which has to be done, pointed out that each gender has great capability. "From personal observation, I think there is hardly anything a man can do that a woman can't do," she added.

"One of the aims of the workshop is to develop leadership and organizational structures that can be applied to both business and non-business entities," said Rosemarie Annunziata, a judge at the US Virginia Court of Appeals, and a participant in the conference. "I don't think one can exclude half of the population in decisions that affect their lives," she told The Star.

Annunziata, who said that her memo is to get the best that

you have for everything that has to be done, pointed out that each gender has great capability. "From personal observation, I think there is hardly anything a man can do that a woman can't do," she added.

"I'm here to speak about the law as it relates to human dignity and the status of women, and to share information, not to impose but to share and learn from what is best in each culture," Annunziata said.

Dr Samira Harfoush-Hradsky, director of the Middle East and North Africa programs at the Education Development Center, (EDC) in Washington, reviewed with the participants representing numerous institutions and resource centers, the debilitating social, economic or political constraints militating against the country's NGOs. She stressed that the "effective organization, collaboration, determination, education were key elements for survival in any organization," Dr Harfoush-Hradsky said.

He believes that women's empowerment comes through knowledge, self-confidence and awareness. "The workshop was part of an exchange program on women's resource centers that was initiated last year when 11 women from Jordan, Egypt and Syria travelled to the US on a three-week program to see how women resource centers work, operate and are organized."

According to Dr Harfoush-Hradsky, the EDC, a publicly supported non-profit organization is an enterprise that is trying to invent the future, and is currently involved in developmental programs in over 75 countries worldwide.

Also participating in the seminar, Judy Mueller, executive director of the Women's Center, Vienna, Virginia. Speaking from experience, she pointed to the need for effective organization, identifying the resources and having a goal. Stressing the importance of increasing knowledge through exchange and information, she also explained that "to achieve an excellent model for social service delivery it takes time, patience, efforts, hardwork and determination together with identifying and building upon the existing systems in the society."

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Hot summit not expected

Continued from page 1

Observers believe the foreign ministers meeting, which will precede the holding of the summit, will be crucial and will determine its fate. Egyptian sources told The Star that Egypt has already convinced the Libyans to withdraw a resolution calling on Arab countries to break the UN sanctions against it and at the same time was able to tone down a proposal by a Gulf state calling on the Arabs to tighten the blockade against Iraq.

The Egyptians will try to steer the summit into lending its support to countries that are working to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region. They would also ask the Arabs to revive the Arab League institutions. The Palestinians, on their side, will want the summit to recognize a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The Syrians hope to get the summit's approval for setting up a trilateral committee of Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, to follow up on the peace process and to prevent unilateral agreements with Israel.

Jazz great Ella Fitzgerald's

Continued from page 1

1964 swing band recording of the Beatles' "Can't Buy Me Love," was a major hit, but her strength remained the standards of another era. She toured from 40 to 45 weeks each year, and performed regularly with symphony orchestras. Despite failing health, she performed at least once a month into the early 1990s. She won her 13th Grammy for "All That Jazz," released in 1990.

After a brief early marriage, Fitzgerald married bassist Ray Brown in 1947. The couple divorced in 1953. Fitzgerald is survived by her adopted son, Ray Brown Jr., and a grandchild.

In addition to her Grammy Awards, she received honorary doctorates at Yale and Dartmouth universities, the National Medal of Arts, and a Kennedy Center Award for lifetime achievement in the performing arts.

"Every musician in the world adored her," Washington disc jockey Gallaher said shortly after Fitzgerald's death. "She was a professional who had talent and knew how to use it. I don't know what more you could want in a performer."

USIA

'Negotiations without prior conditions'

Continued from page 1

proven more flexible once in office, including former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was slain by a Jewish extremist for his peace policies.

Ahmed Qre'i, head of the Palestinian Legislative Council, said on the Voice of Palestine that the new policy "can only be understood (as) an Israeli desire to assassinate the peace process." He warned that "if Israel chooses to abandon the peace process, then we, I'm sorry to say, will have to adopt other alternatives, of which there are many."

Syria's state-run radio Tuesday urged Washington to force Netanyahu to reverse his policies, and accused the new Israeli leader of practicing "the law of the jungle."

The United States, which sponsored the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreements, appears nonetheless to be taking a wait-and-see approach to Netanyahu, Secretary of State Warren Christopher—who plans to visit Israel and Egypt next week—said this week that it is too early to comment on the new prime minister's evolving policies.

Palestinians refer to Netanyahu's guidelines as the "Four No's"—no Palestinian state, no Jerusalem, no Golan Heights and no return of Palestinian refugees. But the "wishful thinkers," as one diplomat calls them, focus on what is not in the guidelines: There is nothing to explicitly prevent Netanyahu from withdrawing from the West Bank city of Hebron or from giving up more West Bank land, as required by the peace accords, and nothing to force Israeli troops back into Palestinian-controlled cities or to force the closure of the Palestinians' unofficial headquarters in Jerusalem.

Because of the persistent contention for ministerial jobs, Netanyahu announced at the end of his address that, at least for the time being, he would be foreign minister in addition to being prime minister. That brought gasps from assembled members of the legislature, the Knesset. Until then, most legislators assumed Netanyahu had settled the coalition wrangling before taking the podium to introduce his government and present its members for a confidence vote.

The main sticking point was Sharon, the ultranationalist and energetic former general from Netanyahu's Likud Party who is famous for striking off on his own with little regard for diplomatic or political niceties. Sharon, who played a key role in uniting the Likud behind Netanyahu, has vied since 29 May for a powerful government role, such as defense minister, finance minister or construction minister.

But early on, Netanyahu made it known that the Defense Ministry was out of the question for the man forced to resign after the massacre in the Sabra and Shatila Palestinian refugee camps near Beirut during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon. And the prime minister-elect also quickly made it clear that the Finance Ministry would go to Dan Meridor, a moderate Likud figure who held the job once before, or to Jacob Frenkel, a free-market advocate who is governor of the Bank of Israel. The job ultimately went to Meridor.

That left the housing and construction portfolio. But that ministry was also negotiated away to Netanyahu's coalition partners from religious parties, whose 23 votes are vital for a parliamentary majority. When the logrolling ended Monday night—and the religious leaders refused to relinquish the ministry—Sharon was left high and dry.

At that point, Levy intervened, saying he could not be part of a government that treated Sharon so callously. Netanyahu spent most of Tuesday seeking a way around the roadblock. But he was unable to do so before the hour rang for him to present his government to the assembled Knesset members.

'Negotiations without conditions' People & Politics

Continued from page 1

proven more than in office. He is Prime Minister Rabin, who was Jewish extremist. Ahmed Olwan, the Palestinian Council's first president, said the peace process is a "one-way street" and that the Palestinians will not accept any alternative to the "one-state" solution. He said that the "one-state" solution is the only way to achieve peace and that the Palestinians will not accept any alternative to the "one-state" solution.

Although no one was speaking of an Arab Order based on Abdel Nasser's pan-Arab nationalism, it became an accepted fact of life that no matter how divided the Arabs were, the Arab summit ritual provided a feeble sense of national security, steadfastness and subordination.

But not anymore. One of the main casualties of the Gulf crisis of 1990 and the ensuing Gulf War was the institution of Arab summitry. With its demise, after the historic and irrefutable Cairo summit in August of 1990, Arabs lost both summitry and symmetry.

That political disorientation resulting from the defeat of Iraq, the liberation of Kuwait, the launching of the Madrid peace process and the historic recognition between the PLO and Israel left the Arab world politically divided, economically exhausted and culturally vulnerable. Naturally, there was no room left for the pre-Gulf War antics of joint Arab action and of course it became redundant to talk about economic complementarity and other utopian paradigms.

Those in the Arab world who favored the past and called for unity and then for reviving the Arab summit institution were rebuffed. The political scene had changed drastically since the liberation of Kuwait. America now called the moves directly and Washington was in no mood to have Iraq rehabilitated, Libya vindicated and Sudan exonerated by its brethren. So while the US was busy tailoring a peace treaty that fits Israel more than anyone else, the Arab summit institution slowly but surely withered away and sank. That demise lasted for six years until now.

So, what has changed? Bibi's election in Israel came as a bombshell, just like Rabin's assassination by a Jewish zealot. It appeared that America's made to fit peace process was not a perfect fit after all. Netanyahu's agenda changed everything and suddenly the US was looking for ways to apply pressure on the run-away leader who now holds the peace process by the jugular.

So, the Arabs meet, at the command of Washington, to send a message to Tel Aviv. That's how the man in the street will see it. That explains Iraq's exclusion from next week's summit. Symmetry will not emerge as the main achievement of the Cairo summit. What is more likely is that soon after the official farewells and the photo opportunity, the Arab leaders will return to their capitals and await Bibi's next move.

Government not a role model

The latest cabinet decision to impose an additional Sales Tax on certain electrical appliances at the recommendation of Minister of Finance, Dr. Marwan Awad has created confusion and anger among traders and consumers. Dr. Awad told the local press that the increase in the Sales Tax between 14 and 16 percent on these appliances, which include radios, cassette players, telephones and others, equals the decrease in the customs tariffs that were approved in the past and that the decision to level off the decrease in these tariffs by hiking the Sales Tax should have been taken before.

But traders said that the new hike will bring the Sales Tax on these items up from 10 to 20 percent to as high as 36 percent which means that the retail price of these items will increase proportionally.

They suggested that the Sales Tax should not exceed 16 percent. But regardless of what Dr. Awad is saying, we feel that Jordanians are being asked to pay too much for goods that are readily available in the black market at half price. The main losers in this case are the traders who can't compete with black marketeers whose business appears to be thriving and expanding, and the Customs Dept., which did not collect its usual fees on these luxury items.

There are many issues involved here. For instance, governments have to tax people in various ways to generate revenue that goes back to finance public infrastructure and services. There is nothing wrong with that. But to assume that people's endurance is limitless, at a time when the economy is struggling, people's wages are low and the cost of living is rising, is both foolish and short-sighted. The second issue is that the government wants to curb consumer appetite and encourage people to save or invest. That's a logical too.

But in order to be convincing, the government must set a good example. It must be a role model, which is not the case in Jordan. Citizens can't sympathize with the government when ministers pass them by in the street racing in brand new duty-free Mercedes cars, models that go by the popular name of *Shabab* or *Ghost*. Government spending on lavish foreign trips, participating in non-essential conventions and conferences among other forms of public expenditure contradicts with the policy of tightening the belt and reducing subsidies on essential goods.

One final note that should be mentioned is that if the government is to maintain high tariffs taxes on imported goods, then it must seriously crack on smugglers and black marketeers, which is not the case since for example 90 percent of mobile telephones in Jordanian hands today came from abroad. We wonder how many of these sets, numbering more than 14,000, are actually duty paid.



Dr. Awad



Ministers greet His Majesty King Hussein upon his arrival, Monday, at the Queen Alia International Airport. He chaired a cabinet meeting at the airport. King Hussein described his talks in both Britain and the United States as 'very positive' and 'fruitful'. He said that he felt that both appreciated Jordan's commitment to peace, democracy and human rights. He added that the US administration had reaffirmed Washington's commitment to the peace process.

Turkish Ambassador in Amman plays down tension on Syrian-Turkish border

EDITOR'S NOTE: With increasing tension on the Syrian-Turkish borders, The Star's Marwan Asmar talked to the Turkish ambassador in Amman, Mr. Suha Umar. Turkey's relationship with the Arab world was also discussed. A strategic expert, Mr. Umar is a veteran diplomat who has long been in the foreign service representing his country in Europe and in conferences on international security. Excerpts follow:



Suha Umar

Photo by Fouad Shaw

People are worried about the growing tension on the Turkish-Syrian borders. For one thing, Turkey appears ready to go after Kurdish bases. Is this a fair assessment?

No, it is not. First of all, we don't believe there is tension along the border between Turkey and Syria. We are aware of the news that up to 40,000 Syrian troops are being moved towards the border but on our side there are no troop movements. We are calm and in Ankara there is no preparation by the army general staff. We don't think that there is any intention on the part of Syria to do anything against Turkey. And we do not intend to do anything against Syria and we don't have any plans to make incursions into Syrian territory to go after PKK terrorists.

You don't have any plans now, but could the situation deteriorate?

We don't have any plans now. But of course the issue is a very serious one and we continue to tell the Syrians and all others who support all types of terrorism to stop. [We tell them] it should not continue because it is harmful to relations between countries and harmful to the relations between Turkey and Syria who are neighbors.

So are you in touch with the Syrians, are there negotiations with them?

Relations yes of course, negotiations, no. Relations between Turkey and Syria have not been interrupted. When there is a need, we talk to them and if they want to talk to us, we are ready to talk. But of course, Syria should understand, it is better that they understand very soon, that their policy which is based on supporting all kinds of terrorist

activities and organizations, be it against Turkey, Jordan or Gulf countries, is seen very badly.

But now Turkey's relations with the Arab world are strained because of cooperation with Israel, threats to Syria, and in the past incursions into northern Iraq. Where do you see these relations heading?

I don't agree with you when you say that Turkey's relations with the Arab world are strained. We have excellent relations with Jordan, Gulf states, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and with the majority of Maghreb [North Africa] countries. So we don't have any difficulty in our relations with Arab countries.

We even have good relations with Iraq. When it comes to incursions into the territory of Iraq, as you know the country is unable to implement central government decisions or sovereignty over its territory as a result of the Gulf War. So there is a vacuum in some parts of Iraqi territory. And some terrorist organizations are trying to make use of this lack of authority. PKK is one of them, it is a purely terrorist organization, which is carrying out acts of terrorism on Turkish territory, but they are based in some cases in northern Iraq. So someone has to take care of this issue. We can not fold our arms and sit, we have to do something and we do it from time to time and we did that a couple of days ago.

Yes, but some see your acts as an infringement on Iraq's sovereignty and a violation of international law. Would you do the same with Syria?

It is not easy to say that Turkey violates international law or violates the sovereignty of other states. The duty of any state is not to allow its territory to be used for acts which are aimed at destabilizing other countries, so this is the case with Iraq. If the state is unable to do this very basic duty, then the country which is the target of those terrorist acts is very much entitled to put an end to these acts. In the case of northern Iraq, where there is no central authority, it is up to Turkey to terminate these acts which is what we are trying to do.

There are those who see Turkey's Kurdish problem as a purely internal issue which should be solved internally not in the battlefield.

This is a very simplistic approach. If the acts of terrorism which were perpetrated in the Turkish territory, then that assessment would be correct. But if the groups are coming from another country then you can't finish with them unless you deal with the source of the acts which is what we are trying to do. First of all, we have all the proof that Syria is supporting materially on otherwise PKK terrorism. They are giving them shelter, they are providing the organization with training and the head of the organization is living in Damascus, and we are of course trying to make Syria understand that this is a very serious and explosive situation.

So relations are strained, this is a well-known fact, and there is only one reason for this which is the support given by Syria to this terrorist organization. But this is not only for us, this is true for other countries.

How do you see the future of Turkish-Jordanian cooperation in the peace era?

Relations between Jordan and Turkey are excellent. The two countries share common opinions as regards to issues which are related to the region, and they share the same concerns, and have close cooperation in many fields, starting from the fight against terror-

Empowerment through education, concludes conference

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff Writer

"EDUCATION IS empowerment," stated the "Amman Affirmation" issued at the conclusion of last week's four-day "Mid-Decade Meeting of the International Consultative Forum on Education For All". The meeting was held in Amman under the patronage of HM King Hussein at the Royal Cultural Center.

"We expected the number of out-of-school children to escalate from 128 million in 1990 to 148 million but what happened is that the number now is 108 million," said Mr. Federico Mayor, chief director of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Mr. Mayor said it is impossible to have basic education without ensuring freedom of expression and justice. He added that the governments of the world should allocate six percent of their GNP to finance the educational programs and make basic education accessible to everybody.



The Amman meeting is a continuation of the Jomtien conference, which was held in Thailand in 1990. The forum has been established by a number of UN agencies including UNESCO and the World Bank. According to Mr. Mayor, World Bank findings showed an availability of \$1 billion per year devoted to basic education programs in developing countries.

Participants included experts, researchers, ministers of education and representatives of NGOs all over the world. The main objectives of the forum have been to condense all efforts to provide basic education for all, reduce the percentage of illiteracy and school drop-outs and make a balance between education for males and females.

The Amman forum was aimed at evaluating what has been achieved after Jomtien. "We have made a survey to figure out which countries increased their budgetary resources to finance basic education in the past six years," Mr. Victor Ordonez, UNESCO director in Bangkok said. "In 1993, we found that 15 countries increased these amounts while in 1996 there are 47 countries which have doubled their resources. Among those are Egypt, Bangladesh, Mexico, etc."

Such conferences and follow-up meetings can be utilized to approach ways and means to solve problems besetting basic education. "It is important to know what has been done and what has not been done regarding Jomtien's plans," Dr. Ahmed Al Majdoub of the University of Jordan told The Star. He added that we need to go beyond preaching in order to identify obstacles and translate ideas into realities.

The donor countries play a significant role to enhance school enrollment and the percentage of literacy. Since Jomtien, donor countries have been urged to fund education programs in the Arab states, Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. "The donor countries are developing their support for basic education though we still do not know how much would be given to it; one has to be careful not to be too optimistic about that," said Mr. Knud Mortensen, special advisor in Education in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Denmark.

The role of the NGOs and the private sector can be used to rid school's curricula and administration of the educational system imposed by governments. The NGOs are not executive organizations but their job is to point out problems and urge governments to solve them.

"We do not have the power to impose rules on the government but we have our persuasive influence," said Ordonez, who is also the official spokesman of the forum. "We should not look at the issue as a public vs. the private." He added that Vietnam, which has no private schooling, has 90 percent of its children in schools.

Africa is still suffering from illiteracy and school drop-outs. The African countries are burdened with debts and ethnic conflicts. "I should not talk about African countries as if they all have the same problems," Dorothy Kom, a Cameroonian researcher said. "East and Southern Africa have a different experience than West and Central Africa where most countries have schools of French or Spanish tradition." She added that education must be decentralized and the curricula must not only reflect government's views.

Women are trying to acquire education yet facing cultural and traditional restraints. A panel of six people presented their experience to acquire education defying all odds. Pinpointing the pressure practiced by families on girls regarding early marriage, a 15 year-old Jordanian girl called Ithram, said that she does not intend to marry until after she graduates from school.

Observers believe that Jordanians must utilize this opportunity to identify problems in the educational system and propose ways for solving them. Dr. Majdoub said that there are an increasing number of Jordanian people who invest in education but still we want to know where Jordan stands in terms of illiteracy and performance of teachers.

United strategy needed for success of summit

Continued from page 1

that this summit must not serve only one party. To avoid this, there must be a united Arab strategy to deal with future challenges. "We want to become a united force against those who threaten the Arab Nation and not be a force against ourselves," Tuaimah added.


"The Arabs have to build up their military, as the Israelis have never stopped improving their military machine," said Ghazi Al Sa'di. "Arabs must have strong influence on the international economic and political levels. A real reconciliation and not only smiles is required, Arabs have the ability to achieve that," said the Israeli affairs expert.

The absence of Iraq has raised many doubts in Jordan about the success of the summit. However, the Gulf states threatened not to attend if Baghdad was invited. Many Jordanian columnists expressed dismay over this. As a founding member of the Arab League, Iraq had every right to attend, it was argued. "Iraq is an important country, it is difficult to solve any issue without its presence," Kawar said. He believes that Iraq can also be a counterweight against Israel.

Observers believe other problems will burden the agenda of the summit: Border conflicts between the Gulf States, and between Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

"Israeli current statements worry us. If they practice what they preach then it will explode the whole peace process. This is the biggest challenge for the Arabs, not the secondary and individual problems," Tuaimah said.

It is not the radical parties who joined the coalition with Likud to form the government. It is Likud itself," Sa'di said. "It denies the peace treaty between the Palestinians and Israel, Likud says it will not adhere to any other deal with the Palestinians that was signed with Labor," he added. The Israeli government does not officially recognize the Palestinian Authority, and is now preferring to talk about "negotiations with the Palestinians." "It is like starting negotiations from the beginning," Sa'di explained.

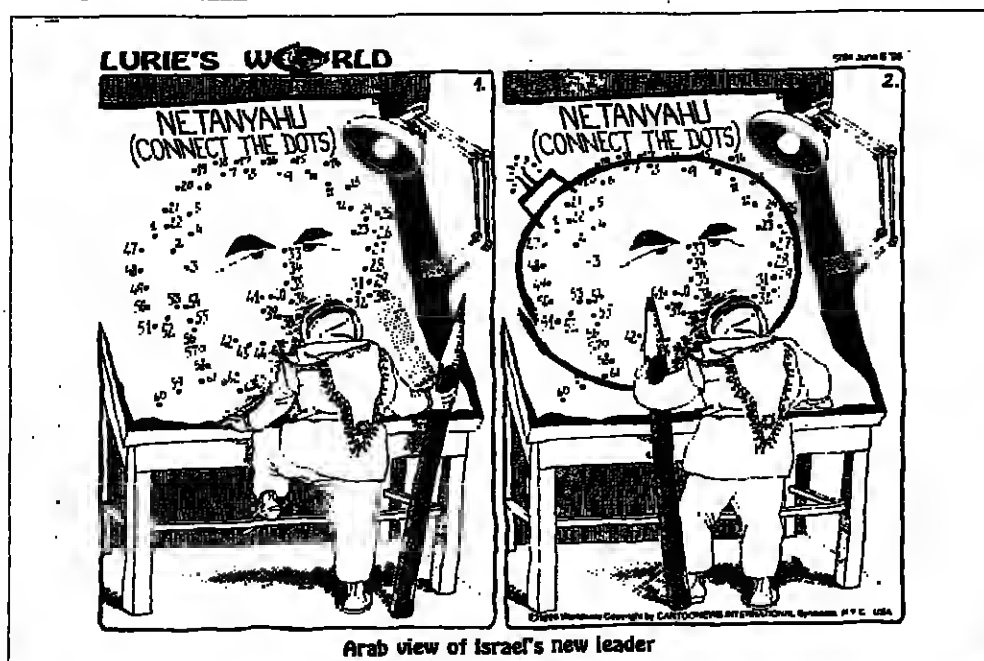


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Arab view of Israel's new leader

Our Say...

Reactivation of the National Charter

JORDANIAN DEMOCRACY is at the crossroads today. Having made important strides in the early 1990s, the process lost momentum and its sense of direction in recent years. That is why there is a strong case today for the reactivation of the National Charter. It is no longer a far cry in the wilderness.

Soon after it was drawn up in 1990 as a blue-print for the evolution of Jordanian democracy, the National Charter sadly ended up on the shelves. From being the source of inspiration for the legislators and the executive, that valuable document found itself safely stacked in the national archives. The National Charter, as His Majesty King Hussein said, is a progressive document that was supposed to be an appendage and a safeguard to the Constitution.

We should not indulge into reasons for the exclusion of the national Charter from our daily lives. What is needed today is to adopt the cause for its reactivation. That cause has become a major rallying point by leading members in society. The National Charter is a document that strengthens democracy, and safeguards and enmeshes our current pluralistic existence in Jordan. It is a call for the reactivation of the state of law.

The National Charter became the basis for a civil society in transition since it provided basic guidelines for political, cultural, economic and social co-existence among the citizens of this country. These guidelines expounded the basic rights and duties stipulated in our Constitution such as freedom of expression, political parties, the press, national unity and the well being of citizens. In a word, the Charter called for greater transparency, a relationship based on open government and respect for more normative ways of behavior and a mode of living.

Since 1990, Jordan has instituted many of the laws that were called for by the National Charter despite the fact that some of these laws were later criticized for being undemocratic. Although it was argued that the laws, especially those relating to the press and political parties, were made to the letter and spirit of this valuable document, this was not strictly true. Maybe to the letter, but certainly not to the spirit.

Jordanians today are calling for a review of the six-year process of Jordanian democracy. The National Charter is a good yardstick. Last week, a conference of intellectuals, politicians and leading constitutional experts met to discuss the virtues of the National Charter that is seen as a symbol of our future and which carries the property for things to come and appreciate. These leading figures all espoused the virtues of the National Charter as a way to go forward.

We need to safeguard our democracy against potential abuse. The rule of law must be beyond reproach, to continue as a source of inspiration. This is why we need to re-activate the National Charter, to realize that we can go much further and build an even better system of political and economic relations. We owe it to society, to ourselves and to the coming challenges. Despite the fact that the National Charter has not been ratified by the legislative body, as promised, it is still a moral and honorable document that seeks to organize the relations between the social and political movement on one hand and the ruling institutions, on the other. ■

Letters to the Editor

Expressing dismay!

To The Editor:

I found the reporting in the article 'Czech Beauty Stunned Audience' most disturbing. The matter-of-fact, uncritical, even approving, tone of the article is disgraceful.

The language used, both by the reporter and Mr Havrilla, is demeaning and obnoxious. The two women in question are human beings, not 'two beauties'. As to representing 'an important side of Czech culture to the Jordanians', I could think of a few Czechs who would think otherwise.

Unfortunately, what we have here is commercial interests. It is men talking to

men, where women are just the object. The 'we' that has (read owns) the 'beauty' (last line, paragraph 1) is the corporate, male 'we'. The Jordanians to whom this 'culture' is brought are Jordanian males. I doubt that many Jordanian women would find great pleasure in this great cultural feat. The cheap play on the name (Petr) is commercialization par excellence.

The Star is not a reporting tabloid. Your other article, on politics or culture, are critical. Clearly, for you some things are more equal than others. Unfortunately, degrading presentation of women is not high on your set of priorities.



Czech airlines could have chosen other aspects of the Czech Republic to represent. Prague is the cultural centre of Europe at the moment. There is no scarcity in that field. They chose a degrading approach. You went along with them. Pure and simple.

Ghail Al-Omari
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Caspian crossroads

Bringing Iran into US fold

By S. Rob Sobhani

US POLICY toward Iran has ranged from appeasement to realpolitik playing Iran against its arch-rival Iraq. US policy, as outlined in its Dual Containment, is aimed at containing Iran.

While the major elements of America's Dual Containment Policy, such as blocking the sale of weapons of mass destruction to Iran, are sound, some modifications should be made to reflect America's national interests as they are evolving north of Iran. The recent signing of an international oil development project by a western consortium has brought about partnerships between American oil companies and the oil-rich Caspian Sea, countries of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan which are in conflict with Moscow's wish to control energy exports.

This conflict, coupled with the lack of an acceptable oil export route, is hindering the rapid development of oil-fields, estimated at 50 billion barrels of oil. Choosing a near-term "early oil" export route through Iran may be the solution.

Both Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are land-locked. Access to port terminals in the Black Sea, the Mediterranean Sea or the Arabian Gulf are now being discussed to determine the best export pipeline route. There are three feasible oil export routes: through Russia to the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk; across Azerbaijan to Turkey and a Mediterranean port; through Iran as part of a swap arrangement or directly to the Arabian Gulf. Unfortunately, all three of these routes are fraught with political and economic shortcomings.

Russia has demanded that the oil be exported via a pipeline existing at its port of Novorossiysk, where the oil would be shipped by tankers through the Bosphorus Straits and onto the Mediterranean.

However, there are many technical problems with this. The Bosphorus is a narrow waterway only a quarter of a mile wide at its narrowest point. Given that it is already crowded by Black Sea shipping and commuter ferries continuously plying back and forth between the European and Asian banks of Istanbul, turning this narrow wa-

terway into a commercial oil export route transporting hundreds of millions of barrels of oil per year is a social and environmental disaster. The Turkish Government is opposed to this option.

An advantage of using Iran as an outlet for "early oil" production from the Caspian Sea would be that Washington could buy time in which a diplomatic solution might be found to the potential confrontation between Ankara and Moscow over whether Turkey or Russia become the final transit point. Russia's insistence that crude oil be off loaded in the Black Sea is a denunciation to Turkey's dual strategy of protecting not only the Bosphorus from oil tanker accidents but also linking the economies of Azerbaijan and Central Asia to that of Turkey.

From a political standpoint, the Russian alternative is risky since Moscow has publicly stated that it does not recognize the legitimacy of the contracts nor the sovereignty of the signing governments to control development of their own oil.

Russia's resistance to acknowledge its former Republic's sovereignty was overtly disclosed when she attempted to prevent American companies from investing in Azerbaijan's oil industry as stated in 28 April letter from its Foreign Ministry. The letter states "that any steps by whichever Caspian littoral state aimed at acquiring any kind of advantage with regard to the areas and resources... cannot be recognized... and any unilateral actions are devoid of a legal basis."

Russian insistence that any crude oil exported from Azerbaijan—and all the littoral states of the Caspian Sea—be moved through a pipeline system terminating at Novorossiysk has the effect of holding Caspian Sea producers "by the pipeline." Previous efforts by

Western oil companies to export oil through Russian pipelines under new joint venture agreements have been disastrous. If Iran were to be considered for the "early oil" export route, American companies could swap Caspian Sea oil by delivering crude oil to Iranian refineries and receiving an equivalent amount of crude oil at export facilities in the Arabian Gulf. Such a swap arrangement would mean that American companies such as Chevron, Mobil, Amoco and Pennzoil along with their Kazakh and Azeri partners would not be subject to unpredictable economic pressure.

Ironically, that leaves an option involving Iran as the most feasible export route in the near term from both a business and political viewpoint. The US President should exercise his Iran option by supporting American energy companies negotiating an "early oil" swap arrangement to export Azerbaijan and Kazakh oil from the Caspian Sea through Iran's existing pipeline infrastructure.

By encouraging Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan to export their early crude oil production through Iran with the assistance of American oil companies working in the Caspian Sea, Washington could achieve a number of strategic and foreign policy objectives.

America's energy security, today and into the next century, requires diversification of oil imports. With as much as 50 billion barrels of reserves, the Caspian Sea is second only to the Arabian Gulf in terms of oil reserves, and could become a stable source of oil for the West for the next 40 years. In fact, the Caspian Sea projects currently under contract are estimated to produce more than two million barrels of oil per day when fully developed—equivalent to the amount of oil,

the United States imports from the Arab members of OPEC today.

It is also in Washington's best interest to prevent instability in Iran today. An "early oil" swap arrangement would provide Iran with badly needed foreign exchange in the form of transit and tanker loading fees to help stabilize its already very shaky economy. Why is it in America's best interest to help Iran avoid an economic collapse which would most likely plunge the nation into anarchy and chaos? As the only organized opposition to the Islamic regime, the Peoples Mujaheddin will in all likelihood be the beneficiaries of any change resulting from an overthrow of the current regime. While it may be true (and some Democrats in Congress seem to have bought the idea) that the once Marxist-Leninist, anti-American guerrilla group has changed its image, it cannot escape the reality of its close financial, military and intelligence ties to Saddam Hussein. An Iran governed by the Mujaheddin and allied to Iraq would have serious negative consequences for America's national security interests.

Passage through the Straits of Hormuz in the Arabian Gulf could once more be threatened and a scenario of destabilizing Kuwait and Saudi Arabia—Washington's allies in the region—is not unrealistic. Finally, such an alliance could seriously threaten Israel's security. Furthermore, notwithstanding US's serious differences with the Tehran, the importance of Iran's geo-political significance cannot be ignored. Irrespective of who governs, Iran is important to the US because, as it has throughout history, serves as a strategic buffer against any latent Russian desire for the Gulf; secondly as a counter to Iraqi hegemony in the Persian Gulf, and now, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, a natural conduit for energy exports from the land-locked states of Central Asia and Transcaucasia.

Finally, an amended Dual Containment Policy can serve as a nonpolitical venue to rebuild relations between Iran and America. It would also serve as a litmus test for the US administration to gauge the extent to which Iran will welcome American companies back into its economy. Lifting the enormous psychological barrier that exists between the two nations can be accomplished by establishing constructive economic relations through this process. ■

S. ROB SOBhani, Ph.D. is a Middle East Energy Analyst and a lecturer at Georgetown University (Washington, DC).



"Because of rising printing costs, we'll have to change them to \$125 bills."

Women in Islam

Exploring the myths

Women in Islam versus Judeo-Christian Tradition: Myth and Reality by Dr Sherif Abdel Azem Mohamed Sandi Arabia, World Assembly of Muslim Youth 1996, p. 77

Reviewed by Nazre Sobhani

DR SHERIF MOHAMMAD, an eminent writer-thinker with an academic background in electrical engineering, is active in preaching and propagation of Islam and has written extensively on Islamic issues and contemporary social and political problems affecting humanity at large. He currently lives in Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

Dr Sherif says in the Introduction (p.4), "... my concern is, mainly, the position of women in the three religions as it appears in their original sources not as practised by their millions of followers in the world today. Therefore, most of the evidence cited comes from the Quran, the sayings of Prophet Muhammad, the Bible, the Talmud, and the sayings of some of the most influential Church Fathers whose views have contributed immeasurably to defining and shaping Christianity. This interest in the sources relates to the fact that understanding a certain religion from the attitudes and the behaviour of some of its nominal followers is misleading. Many people confuse culture with religion, many others do not know what their religious books are saying, and many others do not even care."

This booklet addresses a timely issue concerning the status of women as documented in the three Abrahamic religions. The status of women

in revealed faiths defined by, among other things, rights, privileges and responsibilities, is perhaps one of the least understood and most distorted, yet most talked about issues concerning women—especially the myths surrounding the status of Muslim women. The booklet is well-documented with sources of information being drawn from the holy books of Jews, Christians and Muslims and other literatures. I am most impressed by the logic and eloquence expressed in the writing style of Dr Mohammad.

While Dr Jamal Badawi's women articles give an overall understanding of women's status in Islam, Sherif's is a comparative analysis of the Abrahamic religions' views on a whole gamut of issues affecting women.

Together, they answer the relentless propaganda and onslaught against Islam in this regard. Specifically, Sherif booklet exposes the hypocrisy and double standard that wrongly scapegoat Islam.

This booklet dispels many misconceptions about women's status as evidenced in the Quran, distinguishes between real Islamic belief and varied Muslim practices influenced by culture and social customs and highlights the heterogeneity of Muslim women's status. In view of widespread misconceptions not only among non-Muslim Westerners but also among many Muslims in this regard, this booklet should be read by all conscious people. In dispelling certain myths, the booklet also holds out the prospect of building up harmonious relations among Muslims and non-Muslims.

This landmark booklet is a

must for all who take interest in knowing the status of women in the three revealed faith and those who would like to search for the truth themselves.

Nadeem Siddiqi says five years ago, I read in the Toronto Star (3 July, 1990) an article titled "Islam is not alone in patriarchal doctrines", by Gwynne Dyer. The article described the furious reactions of the participants of a conference on women and power held in Montreal to the comments of the famous Egyptian feminist Dr Nawal Saadawi. Her "politically incorrect" statements included: "the most restrictive elements towards women can be found first in Judaism in the Old Testament then in Christianity and then in the Quran"; "all religions are patriarchal because they stem from patriarchal societies"; and "veiling of women is not a specifically Islamic practice but an ancient cultural heritage with analogies in sister religions."

What intrigued me the most about the Montreal conference was one question: Were the statements made by Saadawi, or any of her critics, factual? In other words, do Judaism, Christianity, and Islam have the same conception of women? Are they different in their conceptions? Do Judaism and Christianity, truly, offer women a better treatment than Islam does? What is the Truth? and ends with the following:

At the end of this study, I would like to offer the following advice to the global Muslim community. So many Muslim women have been denied their basic Islamic rights for so long. The mistakes of the past have to be corrected. To do that is not a favor, it is a duty incumbent upon all Muslims. Furthermore, we must have

the courage to confront our past and reject outright the traditions and customs of our forefathers whenever they contravene the precepts of Islam. Did the Quran not severely criticize the pagan Arabs for blindly following the traditions of their ancestors?

It is to the non-Muslim reader, Jewish, Christian, or otherwise, that these final words are dedicated. It is bewildering why the religion that had revolutionized the status of women is being singled out and denigrated as so repressive of women. This perception about Islam is one of the most widespread myths in our world today.

To label the status of women in the Muslim world today as "Islamic" is as far from the truth as labelling the position of women in the West today as "Judeo-Christian." With this understanding in mind, Muslims and non-Muslims should start a process of communication and dialogue in order to remove all misconceptions, suspicions, and fears. A peaceful future for the human family necessitates such a dialogue.

One time US ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Herman Eilts, in a testimony in front of the committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives stated on 24 June, 1985, "The Muslim community of the globe today is in the neighbourhood of one billion. That is an impressive figure. But what to me is equally impressive is that Islam today is the fastest growing monotheistic religion. This is something we have to take into account. Something is right about Islam. It is attracting a good many people." Yes, something is right about Islam and it is time to find that out. I hope this study is a step on this direction. ■

Soviet Russia?

THOUGH THE Russian elections are far from producing a clear-cut winner in the presidential race, the assessment of future things to come is, on the mind of all observers and analysts in the region.

Mr Yeltsin certainly looks strong in the running, and there is a general feeling that the Russian people stand poised to support his reforms program, if only to give him a second chance. The new generation of free market Russians are his greatest electoral base, as well as the farmers who are still optimistic about the success of the reforms.

His greatest enemy will remain a poor turn-out at the ballot box. Mr Zyuganov, remains the strongest alternative to the presidential seat, and his main policy outline is the negation of what Mr Yeltsin stands for. He has a strong base among the disillusioned masses, and offers a nostalgic vision to a more stable and predictable Russia.

His greatest asset is the older generation, and his greatest advantage is the fact that the elderly tend to vote in large numbers. It is certain that the Russian people will be voting to fend for their existence, but the whole world is observing carefully the possible end of what came to be the democratic experiment of Russia. What would the Russian people's vote mean for the international community?

For the western world, if Mr Yeltsin is re-elected, it is almost certain that things will remain business as usual. The credit line will be extended, and life will be the same again. But Zyuganov is not likely to alter the balance in all spheres, providing of course, he chooses to follow his prescribed ideological orientation. However, even for the most ardent Yeltsin batters, one must say that, even if Mr Zyuganov was a most ardent communist, the options for his maneuverability will remain limited.

If he goes internally on a spree of nationalizations, he will probably find himself in the position whereby private enterprise can match him in the determination to preserve the current status quo. Civil war is not on the agenda, and the independent republics are far stronger than him. At worst, a mixed economy is likely to emerge in Russia, and the ethnic nationalities are more likely to suffer from a likely policy of Russian chauvinism.

Apart from that, probably, international relations will be the most exciting sphere of operations, and the most likely area of operations will certainly be the Middle East. For Europe remains a closed area, to meddle with, and NATO will continue to be expanded despite likely objections. And the previous Soviet empire is impossible to role back. Logically, what remains is the Middle East, and to a far lesser extent, Africa. With much caution, one should start observing the rebirth of the previous alliances again in the area. Will a prospective Soviet Russia seek its previous friends in the area?

The answer is most definitely in the affirmative. Only the ex-allies of the Soviets will be the most likely sources to approach Zyuganov to develop a symbiotic relationship. There will be an apparent keenness to have friends in the Middle East for Mr Zyuganov, as the area will be the most suitable grounds for him, if he needs to exert pressure on the western allies, and conversely, for the old Arab friends of the Soviet Union it will become most convenient to exert leverage in the region, through their connection to a willing ally. These are dangerous scenarios, and any alteration to the balance of power will lead to a major disaster. ■

Attracting private investment is 'ultimate challenge' says IMF chief

EDITOR'S NOTE: Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, spoke about the challenges facing the Arab world in today's global economy. "There is a lot of talk these days about globalization—about the opportunities it brings and the risks that it entails. In my view, globalization is a highly favorable development," he told the annual meeting of the Union of Arab Banks in New York last month. What follows are excerpts of his speech.

...But, of course, globalization also involves risks. Last year's experience with Mexico brought home all too clearly how quickly market sentiment can shift and how disruptive such shifts can be. Likewise, the Barings case illustrated the perils of inadequate internal bank controls and financial sector supervision in today's global markets. But in addition to these risks, there is a further and, to my mind, greater risk—the risk that some countries will not be able to attract international capital, increase exports, or otherwise take advantage of the opportunities that globalization provides.

So where, you may ask, do Arab countries stand in today's global economy? Certainly, it is encouraging to see that some countries in the region have made considerable headway in stabilizing, reforming, and opening up their economies. Here I mention three examples:

Algeria, whose steadfast implementation of its comprehensive stabilization and reform program since 1994, despite severe political and security problems, has helped produce the first increase in real per capita income in five years;

Jordan, whose determined pursuit of prudent macroeconomic policies and structural reform since 1989 has resulted in strong, broad-based growth averaging 6 percent during the last three years and a substantial reduction in unemployment despite high labor force growth; and

Tunisia, whose transformation from an inward-looking and heavily regulated economy in 1986 into a predominantly market- and export-oriented one today has made the country much more able to withstand external shocks; increased real per capita income by an average of about two percent per annum since 1987.

I could also mention Morocco (in spite of the drought), Saudi Arabia in its ongoing financial adjustment efforts, and so on. But despite such achievements, I am concerned that Arab countries as a group are operating below potential—that they are not in fact, taking full advantage of the opportunities that the global economy has to offer. This can be seen in the fact that even since the 1989 recovery in the region, real GDP growth has not kept pace with the robust growth in developing countries as a group. More to the point, slower GDP growth and rapid population growth in the Arab countries has meant that, for the region as a whole, average real per capita income has virtually stagnated. At the same time, Arab countries as a group have attracted very little of the private capital that has surged into developing countries in recent years; nor has their export growth, which has averaged only 1-1/2 percent per year during the last five years, come anywhere close to the nearly 10 percent average annual export growth achieved by developing countries as a group, or even the six percent average annual growth in world trade.

As for the future, it does not appear that the traditional sources of growth in Arab countries will provide the needed basis for sustained economic expansion. Indeed, the outlook for oil prices is uncertain. Without stronger, broad-based growth how will Arab countries be able to create enough to absorb new entrants to the labor force, which is expanding at over three percent per year? Indeed, the already pressing need for job creation is likely to intensify, since, in some countries, more than half the population is under the age of 15. And without stronger growth, how will Arab countries have the resources to upgrade their economic infrastructure, address the problem of water scarcity, or meet the health, educational, housing, and other needs of their growing populations?

As I mentioned, financial institutions also have an important role to play in helping your economies realize their full potential. Banking systems fulfill essential functions in intermediating between savers and investors, financing private sector trade and investment, and helping to ensure that the economy's financial resources are allocated efficiently. Well-functioning banking systems also increase the effectiveness of macroeconomic policy by providing a channel for monetary policy signals.

It is important as IMF and other official assistance is, especially for the poorer countries in the region, let me assure you that the greatest support for Arab countries, or indeed for any country committed to reform, will not come from governments or international institutions, but—when the conditions are right—from the vast resources of the private sector, both domestic and foreign. Attracting these resources is the ultimate challenge in today's global economy, a challenge that I have no doubt Arab countries—and their banking institutions—will take up forthwith.

Yeltsin adds Lebed, fires defense minister

By David Hoffman
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

MOSCOW—President Boris Yeltsin moved decisively to fortify his reelection campaign Tuesday, appointing popular retired paratrooper general Alexander Lebed to a top Kremlin security post and firing Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

Within hours of his appointment, Lebed made a startling claim that he had personally foiled an effort by a coterie of generals around Grachev to stir rebellion in the army. Implying they were engaging in an incipient mutiny to save Grachev from being dismissed, Lebed called on the generals, whom he named, to hand in their resignations.

Yeltsin's high-profile announcement of Lebed's appointment was a gambit to win over the nearly 11 million voters who backed Lebed in the first round of the presidential election Sunday, catapulting him into third place. Yeltsin faces a second-round runoff in about two weeks against Communist challenger Gennady Zyuganov.

While political analysts were cautious about Lebed's ability to deliver his constituency to Yeltsin, the retired general wasted no time in attacking Zyuganov. The communist "idea," he declared in a Krem-

lin ceremony with Yeltsin at his side, "has long outlived itself and cost us a lot of blood and suffering."

If Yeltsin is reelected, Lebed, 46, will become one of the most powerful men in Russia, with a mandate to carry out the far-reaching reforms he favors in the 1.5-million-member standing army. Lebed has said the army should be made into a smaller, more professional and better-trained force that no longer seeks to compete with Western powers in size. He has said he does not oppose the expansion of NATO to former Soviet Bloc countries such as Poland and Hungary.

As secretary of the president's Security Council and his assistant for national security, Lebed also will oversee the country's security forces and internal police, allowing him to pursue the law-and-order policies that were the centerpiece of his presidential campaign.

Yeltsin appointed the chief of the general staff, Army Gen. Mikhail Kolesnikov, as acting defense minister, but Lebed said a search was underway for a permanent successor to Grachev. Oleg Lobov, previously secretary of the Security Council, and Yuri Baturin, previously national security adviser, are being reassigned.

Yeltsin, who has long resisted calls for Grachev to be fired, dumped the defense chief in a

brief remark to reporters followed by a smirk. Grachev frequently has been accused of corruption and ineptitude in coping with the enormous pressures on the shrunken army, but Yeltsin stuck by him, in part because of Grachev's loyalty in the president's violent 1993 clash with hard-liners in parliament.

Lebed said later he played the key role in the dismissal of Grachev, once his commander in the war in Afghanistan. Lebed had been especially critical of the war to the separatist region of Chechnya and Grachev's handling of it.

Yeltsin announced he had snared Lebed at a Kremlin news conference Tuesday morning, before Lebed could even hold a scheduled meeting with Zyuganov. Yeltsin hailed the appointment as a "unification of two politicians, a unification of two programs."

Later, Lebed confidently predicted "at least 80 percent of my voters" would back Yeltsin. Exit polls from Sunday's vote suggest a little more than half of Lebed's followers might support Yeltsin.

The Communists insisted they were not upset. "There is no party or mass organization behind Lebed," said Speaker Gennady Seleznyov of the Lower House of Parliament, the State Duma. "He only has his name." But the announce-



Russia's Communist Party Presidential candidate, Gennady Zyuganov feels the heat in the elections

ment was clearly a setback for Zyuganov, who had announced he would make Lebed prime minister if elected.

Lebed's appointment was announced about 10:30 am but he told reporters later of a small drama before the news became public. According to Lebed, "circles close to the defense minister" tried to organize a rebellion and "raised the alarm" through the ranks.

Lebed at first suggested there had been an attempted coup. But he then said, "It was not an attempted coup. It was an attempt to put pressure on the president."

Tuesday night, on the television interview program "Hero of the Day," Lebed elaborated. "Today," he said, "between 9 am and 10 am," a group of generals were preparing to try to "stir the troops to action" against Grachev's dismissal. Lebed named Col. Gen. Viktor Barynikov, chief of the main operations department at general headquarters; Col. Gen. Anatoly

Sitnov, a department chief at general headquarters; Col. Gen. Dmitri Kharchenko, chief of the international military cooperation department; Col. Gen. Valery Lapshev; and Grachev's press secretary, Yelena Agapova. He also mentioned a Gen. Shulikov who could not be identified, and he claimed the defense minister of the ex-Soviet republic of Georgia was involved.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, asked about Lebed's statement, said, "I didn't hear about that." He added perhaps the Grachev announcement had taken the Defense Ministry "by surprise."

Lebed said he didn't know precisely what the generals planned to do, "so I took preventive measures. I gave an order to the general on duty at the general headquarters, prohibiting him from executing any orders of the defense minister," he said. "I drove to the Moscow military district headquarters and sent a cable from

there, informing of my appointment and urging the troops to continue to do what they were doing."

Lebed's statements could not be independently confirmed. "I won the undivided loyalty of the armed forces," he said. "This is a specific act, and I know for sure there will be no troublemaking. I believe the gentlemen who engaged in this this morning will have to present their resignations tomorrow to the acting defense minister. That will be very correct. And that will be enough."

Random interviews with soldiers and officers suggested the Lebed's appointment would boost morale and possibly Yeltsin's vote in the military.

Also economist Grigory Yavlinsky, who finished fourth, announced he would not support Zyuganov, although he stopped short of saying he would support Yeltsin.

Eye-witness report from Hebron

Israeli army holds American peace activists for questioning

HEBRON, OCCUPIED West Bank—On May 28 at 7:30 pm, Christian Peacemaker Team members joined an American peace worker, "D.", in transplanting olive tree seedlings near Susya settlement, 30 minutes south of Hebron. The settlers had planted the trees on land belonging to a Palestinian professor from Hebron University named Mosallam Ali Shreath.

The Shreath family wished to plow the field, but first the group planned to move the trees to the nearby settlement land to prevent their damage.

The group managed to transplant one tree, and dig up another three for transplanting, when an Israeli military jeep drove by. The Israeli army detained the group and confiscated their passports at 8:30 pm. Settlers, some of whom were armed with Uzis, came out to the site and began harassing the CPTers. Settlers pushed

members of the group, and yelled in their faces. Although CPTer Bob Naiman alerted the soldiers to what was happening, the soldiers turned their backs and did nothing. One of the soldiers detaining them was a settler from Kiryat Arba, near Hebron.

While they were being detained, waiting for the arrival of the Israeli police from Hebron, the settlers continued harassing the group. One yelled, "We don't want to be friends, we want you to die... We will kill you." He also accused the group of coming to "F--- the Arabs."

D. told the settler, "God wants peace."

"No," he replied, "it's not true."

The same settler spit on CPTers Randy Bond, Naiman and Wendy Lehman.

Finally the soldiers wished to move the group to a less hostile area. As the group was

entering the military jeep, the settler hit CPTer Tom Malthaner on the back of the head. Another settler threw a stone which hit Naiman.

The group was transported to an area further away from the settlement and waited until midnight for the police to arrive. Two Palestinians who had driven the group to the site, but were not involved in the action, were also detained.

By 12:30 am on the morning of the Israeli elections, the CPTers found themselves, with the Palestinians and D., at the Hebron police station near Kiryat Arba. They were kept on a flight of stairs until the following day at 5 pm—nearly 15 hours. During this time, they were interrogated primarily by Sergeant Omri Ben Meir, but different officers questioned them—some informing them that they were arrested, others saying they were detained.

During the night, Sergeant Amal informed the group that if they signed a paper promising to pay 1000 shekels (approximately \$330) bail the following day, they would be released. The CPTers refused to sign anything in Hebrew, or to agree to the bail, although the other three signed.

The following morning, Ben Meir refused to release anyone, even those that had signed. He later accused D. of refusing to sign the paper. He again interrogated the group after 30 hours of almost no sleep, with the night spent on the flight of stairs.

D. showed Ben Meir a paper from an Israeli court saying that the land belonged to the Palestinian and that the settlers should not interfere with it. Ben Meir read it and said, "This means nothing," and handed it back to her.

When Ben Meir interrogated Naiman, Naiman chose to take his right to remain silent like the other CPTers. Ben Meir yelled in his face, "What, don't you have the guts to admit it?" Naiman walked out of his office. A police officer brought him back in with his hands cuffed behind his back and his legs shackled together. He was kept like that for an hour. Then, for approximately four of five hours, his feet remained shackled, his hands were cuffed in the front, and he was kept separate from the rest of the group in a hallway. He was then shackled at the ankles and returned to the group for the rest of the time.

Ben Meir also told the seven arrestees that they would be

held, for at least four days, because they were being charged under military law, and the officer could indefinitely renew their imprisonment. When the Palestinians and Lehman complained, the Palestinians were shackled and handcuffed together for several hours.

At 5 pm, the men were transferred to the military prison of Aduraim near Dura, West Bank, and the women were taken to Lachis Prison in Ashkelon, Israel.

The women were kept with three other Israeli prisoners—one in for burglary and drugs, another in for stabbing someone to death, and the third for unknown reasons. The level of tension and hostility from the prisoners kept increasing. At one point, one of the prisoners drew a knife on D. and threatened to stab her. Periodically, the cell mates would be hospitable, and then they would insist on searching Lehman's bag, accusing her of stealing their property, or would become more and more angry with them.

On the evening of May 30, Lehman and D. were taken to court. Little was translated. The police brought up a previous charge against the group. In the beginning of April, Naiman, Lehman, another CPTer and D. had removed a fence the settlers had installed around the Shreath's land. The police charged them with this only, and the judge asked them why they arrested them now, a month and a half later. The judge told them they didn't have enough evidence for the arrest, but could take them to court the following day after they gathered more evidence.

Lehman asked the police officers, from Hebron, if she could call her lawyer when she returned to prison to notify her of the upcoming court date. They assured her she could. But the prison guards refused to allow her to call a lawyer until after she went to court.

The following day, 31 May, Lehman and D. appeared before a different judge.

The police charged them with the fence removal, the tree

removal, and listed various other activities CPT had been involved in. Lehman told the judge how she had been refused the right to her lawyer. The police explained that they called her lawyer and she said she couldn't come to the hearing. Lehman's lawyer later told her that the police had not called her, and in fact she was informed that the hearing would occur on Sunday, 2 June.

The judge also asked them why the judge from the previous hearing did not grant them an extension on the prison sentence. They said that the hearing occurred too late in the evening and the judge could not hear the case, although this was not actually what had occurred.

The judge told Lehman and D. that they had to sign a paper agreeing, under a 10,000 shekel (\$3,300) guarantee, that they would not return to Hebron until their visas expired. At least, this was how the police officer translated the situation to Lehman and D. They were given five minutes to decide. Lehman tried to contact her lawyer but she was unavailable at the time.

Although D. signed, Lehman refused and opted to go back to prison until she could speak with her lawyer.

She returned to the prison at noon. At about 3 pm, her lawyer called and encouraged her to sign because she felt Lehman was in "physical danger" in the prison. Lehman signed and was released.

The men, who were informed that Lehman had signed for her release, were offered the same opportunity, although they did not go to

court. The Palestinians who were arrested with them were very eager for them to sign—it was not clear if the Palestinians' release depended on it.

The CPTers were not allowed to talk to one another. Naiman was asked first. At first he refused to sign and was ordered back to jail. But one of the Palestinians intervened and insisted that Naiman sign the paper. Because of this and because he didn't want to split the team, Naiman wrote "John Smith" on the paper and was hustled out of the room. The police informed Bond that Lehman and Naiman had signed. He was also encouraged by the Palestinians to sign and was given a minute or two to decide. He agreed. Malthaner continued to refuse to sign. The Palestinians were released with Naiman and Bond.

Malthaner was taken to Hebron, re-arrested, and transferred to the Russian Compound in Jerusalem. That evening, CPT's lawyer visited him, explained to him what he was signing, and he agreed. The police, however, in disregard to the judge's order, refused to allow him to sign and he was released.

After pressure from the lawyer, the police released him on the same conditions as the other CPTers, after he signed the paper at 1 pm the following day, June 1.

This is an eye-witness "experience" report from a group known as the "Christian Peacemaker Team" (CPT) who have been working in Hebron for a number of years. MISANews

Imprisoned Palestinian human rights activist: My life is in danger

By Jon Immanuel

GAZA—A senior Palestinian human rights activist charged with drug possession claims he was framed and his life is in danger, in a letter smuggled out of Gaza Prison in which he pleaded for help. "I have been beaten and my life is in danger. They are trying to frame me with drug charges. Rescue me, the situation is dangerous," the letter from Dr. Eyad Sarraj said, according to AP which said it had seen a copy of it. Sarraj, a psychiatrist and director of the Independent Palestinian Commission for Citizens' Rights, was arrested Sunday night.

On Tuesday, plainclothes police searched the Gaza Mental Health Center which he founded and claimed to find 95 grams of hashish among his

papers. Public Prosecutor Khalid Qidrah said that the office was raided because "we had information that he had drugs. Those who support Mr. Sarraj look at him as a defender of human rights but he is human, not an angel." He denied that Sarraj was beaten. "It is a big lie," he said. "I saw him. We don't beat anyone. Anyone who complains of beating complains to us."

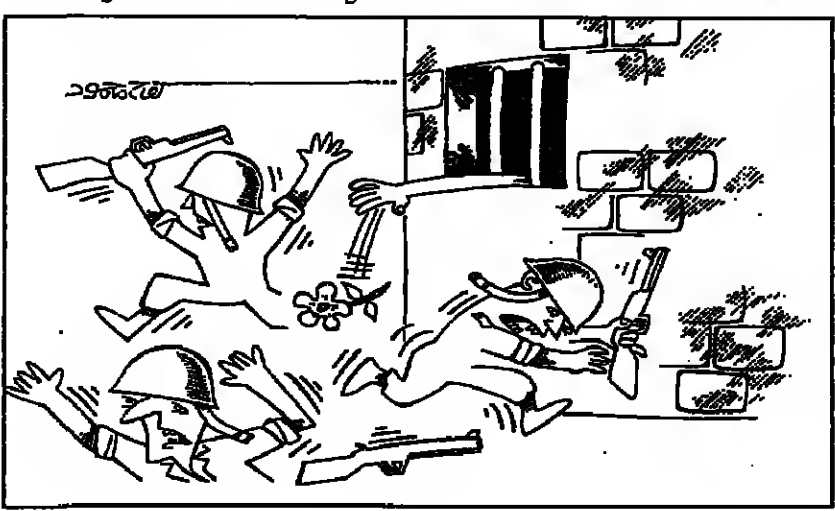
Sarraj was arrested last month after giving an interview in *The New York Times* in which he complained that he was 100 times less free to publish his opinions under the Palestinian Authority than under Israeli occupation.

He was released after nine days following a published apology to PA President Yasser Arafat for any unintended personal offense he may have caused. After his release, the IPCCR said it

would sue Qidrah for wrongful arrest, although it was clear Arafat had ordered it. Last week Sarraj wrote to Arafat explaining that "instead of controlling me you should control the mechanism which undermines accepted standards of human rights."

Several members of the Palestinian Council, including Hanan Ashrawi, former director of the IPCCR, and Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi met with Arafat in Nablus and urged that he release Sarraj. The matter may be brought up in a council session. "This is a clear set-up since Sarraj was arrested before they found the drugs," said one member of the council who insisted on anonymity. "I thought we were past these backward silly games. The Israelis should take a position on human rights in the territory—which is, after all, not under Palestinian sovereignty—if it wants to have a democratic partner." Palestinian human rights activists and journalists have been arrested before and accused of collaboration, stealing and sexual offenses, though the accusations were never translated into formal charges. "They are trying to humiliate him," said Bassem Eid of B'tselem. "Sarraj has been put in Gaza prison in a cell with criminals."

Eid met Sarraj last Tuesday and heard him say that his interrogators warned him before he was released last month that he would be killed if he continued to criticize the PA. Qidrah said that Sarraj would not be released until his interrogation is over. He is to have a remand hearing this morning, Eid said. Imprisoned Palestinian human rights



A look in the rearview mirror at 100 years of driving

By Tom Incantalupo
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

THEY STEERED with tillers, they weren't much faster than a runner and they were noisier and less reliable than a horse.

We've been driving for 100 years, centennial counted from the production of 13 cars by the Duryea Motor Wagon Co. of Springfield, Mass., in 1896 and by the completion by Henry Ford of his first car, in Dearborn, Mich.

They weren't the world's first vehicles; that distinction goes to a three-wheeled, steam-powered artillery tractor built in France in 1769. They weren't even the first built in America; that's believed to be the four-wheeled harbor dredge that was produced in Philadelphia in 1805 and also was steam propelled.

But the 13 Duryeas were important because they marked the first time anyone had built two or more vehicles exactly alike for sale. As for the importance of Ford's first car, the company had gone on to be a giant of the industrial age.

Both are good excuses for America's car builders to throw themselves a massive celebration that is centering on Detroit and culminates 22 June with what is being billed as the Great American Cruise. In a gathering at the Michigan State Fairgrounds to which everyone in America (and their cars) are invited. The following day, more than 2,000 antique and classic cars are scheduled to parade in and around the Motor City.

The industry's beginnings were humble and so were its early products. The Duryeas were two-wheeled, with tillers, had wooden spoked wheels, two-cylinder engines, a top speed of 20 mph and a price of about \$1,500. Ford's car, which he called a "quadricycle," and test drove June 4, 1896, also had a two-cylinder

engine and steered with a tiller.

Since 1896, men like the Duryeas, Ford and his progeny, Louis Chevrolet, the Dodge brothers, Harley Earl, Alfred Sloan, John DeLorean and Lee Iacocca have taken the Americans on one heck of a road trip.

The cars they built probably have changed the nation more than any other invention—and not necessarily always for better.

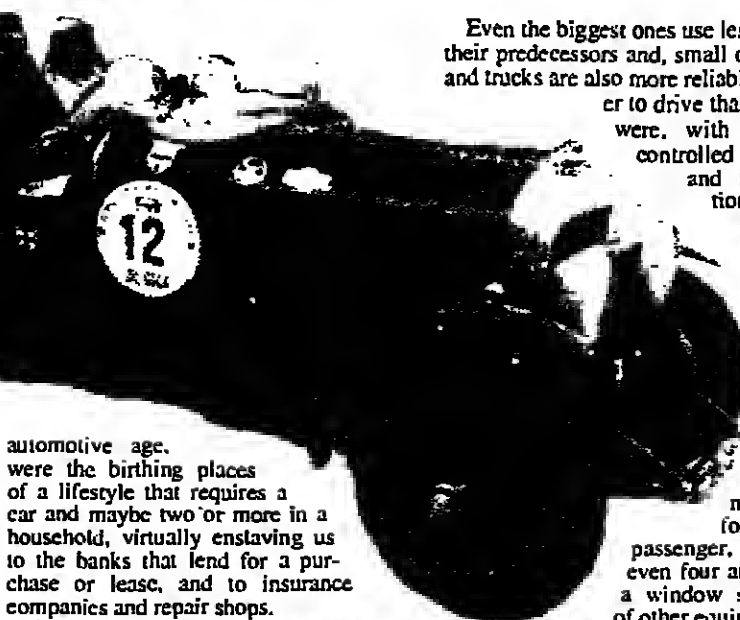
In 100 years, Americans have been both freed and enslaved by the automobile—freed to wander far from home for the price of a junker and a couple of gallons of gasoline, which has always been cheap and almost always plentiful. But the car also has led to suburban sprawl and become a major drain on many families' finances.

What began as a toy for the rich later became affordable for almost everyone and that aided the development of more and better roads and, later, of suburban towns along those roads.

America had 204,000 miles of paved roads in 1904 and 10 times that many miles of unpaved roads.

Today, the nation has 3.5 million miles of paved roads, including the interstate highway system that has reduced a transcontinental motor trip from a couple of months of pure hell to a few days of monotony and fast food.

The suburbs, and cities like Los Angeles that saw their major growth in the



automotive age, were the birthing places of a lifestyle that requires a car and maybe two or more in a household, virtually enslaving us to the banks that lend for a purchase or lease, and to insurance companies and repair shops.

From fewer than 8,000 vehicles on US roads in 1900, the total has grown to nearly 200 million. Americans buy 15 million new cars and trucks in a good year, and most of them are built in the United States or Canada.

Cars today burn more gas than the earliest ones, whose top speed wasn't much faster than running and whose engines often were smaller and less powerful than those of modern lawn mowers. Cars averaged 35 miles per gallon in 1900. But that figure fell steadily in succeeding decades as cars became heavier, more powerful and more highly equipped, to a low point of 12 mpg on average in 1970.

The two gasoline shortages of the 1970s and the wave of little Japanese cars they sparked helped to reverse the long decline in fuel economy and the figure is up to more than 20 mpg now.

Even the biggest ones use less fuel than their predecessors and, small or big, cars and trucks are also more reliable and easier to drive than they ever were.

With computer-controlled ignition and fuel injection, automatic transmission, power rack and pinion steering, four-wheel independent suspension, seat belts for every passenger, two or even four air bags and a window sticker full of other equipment.

Although some cars are still better than others, the average new vehicle now exhibits only one defect of any kind in its first three months of ownership.

Some credit for that must go to men like Ejiri Toyota and Soichiro Honda and their Corollas and Camrys and Civics and Accords—and the competition they brought to the US marketplace, first with fuel efficiency, then with quality. And, while this is the anniversary of the US auto industry, no auto history can ignore Europeans like Daimler, Benz and Porsche for their engineering innovations.

All of those improvements have had a negative side, though: Because of their increasing complexity, as well as federally mandated safety equipment and Americans' increasing taste for luxuries—plus inflation—cars cost an aver-

age of \$20,000 now. That's almost double the average a decade ago and triple that of a decade before that.

Cars and trucks eat up a growing portion of our disposable income: we work an average of more than 26 weeks to afford a new car—six weeks more than we did in 1970. And we now have to insure them and repair them, so that cars cost Americans a grand total of \$400 billion a year.

Cars foul the air, too, more than any other single source, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency, but at least they run cleaner than they used to.

Cars also cost 40,000 American lives each year in accidents yet the US highway death rate, 1.83 persons per 100,000 miles driven, is half what it was in 1980 and a third of what it was in 1960 and one of the lowest in the world. Credit better roads, seat belt use, a reduction in drunken driving and safer cars for that and give some credit for the latter to safety activists like Joan Claybrook and Ralph Nader.

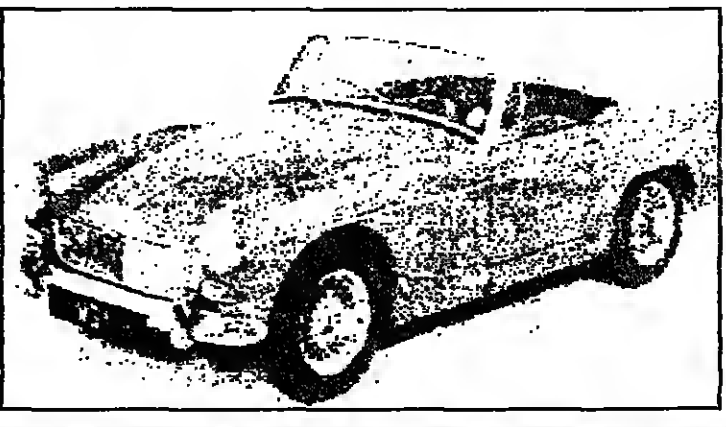
Automobiles also form a cornerstone of the US economy. More than 1 million

Japanese and European car makers. Another 1 million people sell and service cars at dealerships and another half million or so repair them at shops not affiliated with dealerships.

Like hundreds of others in the industry's early days, the Duryeas didn't survive beyond the first years of this century. Richard Stevens, a high school auto mechanics teacher in Springfield, Mass., so obsessed with Duryea history that he hand-built a driveable replica of an earlier, 1893, Duryea car, says the brothers quarreled bitterly in later years over which one deserved more credit for designing the car.

Stevens says the site of the plant where the 13 1896 Duryeas were built is a vacant lot now, not marked even by a plaque. He says Springfield has no celebrations planned to mark its contribution to automotive history.

Of the 13 original Duryeas, all of which were completed by the end of May 1896, just one is in existence; it's in the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Mich. No one drives it anymore.



By Jack Millrod
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

"Space. The final frontier." Better make that "cyberspace."

In the 30 years since the Starship Enterprise was first beamed into our living rooms, Gene Roddenberry's wagon train to the stars has boldly gone from the TV screen to the big screen. But nowhere is the "Star Trek" universe expanding faster than in the space behind your computer screen.

There are two new "Star Trek" computer games on the market, and this fall, when the birthday celebration culminates with the opening of an eighth motion picture, three more programs will be released. That will bring the number of major Trekware titles introduced since the 25th anniversary to 10.

It doesn't need to be a Vulcan to see the logic: Only a computer program can put you in the captain's seat or let you lead the landing party. And the experience has grown more compelling and sophisticated over the past two years, with Trekware delivering authentic music, visuals and sound effects—even the voices of the stars.

"Klingon," the latest offering, ups the ante. This live-action, full-screen interactive adventure—the first "Star Trek" game to move beyond animation—takes you through a holographic training program designed to immerse Starfleet officers in the language and culture of the Klingons, the galaxy's most famous warrior race. It features 90 minutes of new footage starring Robert O'Reilly in his recurring role as Gowron, leader of the Klingon high council. As your personal instructor, Gowron not

only comes along for your holodeck adventure, browbeating you whenever you stray from the way of the warrior, he doubles as your tutor in an accompanying Klingon language lab CD. While you can get through the program without mastering the language, the lab employs voice-recognition technology for those worried about mispronouncing Klingon slurs (an understandable fear when you consider the warning on the game box: "Learn or Die").

It took about two years to make the three-CD set, released last month by Simon & Schuster Interactive, according to producer Keith Halper, who said his seven-figure budget was comparable to that of a new "Star Trek" TV episode. While "Klingon" doesn't feature any of Star Trek's finest, it was directed by Jonathan Frakes, Cmdr. William T. Riker on "The Next Generation" and director of the next movie.

While some programs lean more toward arcade-style action than others, they all share an understanding that it's the characters and stories, not the hardware and special effects, that lie at the heart of "Star Trek's" success.

Here's a look at seven programs on the shelves: (Prices are either manufacturer's suggested retail price or estimates of street prices. All are available for Windows and Mac, except "Klingon" and



"Harbinger." Versions of those games will be released this summer.)

■ "KLINGON" (Simon & Schuster Interactive, \$69.95): You assume the role of Pok, a young Klingon whose father is murdered during a party celebrating your coming of age as a warrior. By allowing you to freeze the action to click on objects for voice-over explanations, this first-person drama of treachery and vengeance combines with the language lab CD and a "Power Klingon" audio CD narrated by Michael Dorn (Worf) to provide a compelling journey into the nuances of Klingon language and culture. As a treat, Gowron begins it all with a recitation from Shakespeare's "Henry V" in the original Klingon.

who gets caught up in exactly the kind of tale the creepiest corners of the decrepit station were made for: a murder mystery. Beware of the mazel.

■ "OMNIPEDIA" (Simon & Schuster Interactive, \$55-\$60): Though this computerized encyclopedia, complete with video clips and voice-recognition software, became outdated almost immediately after its release last year, a free update will be available next month to all registered owners. Episode guides for each series and online updates are also planned.

■ "JUDGMENT RITES" (Interplay, \$39.95): This sequel to "25th Anniversary" featuring the voices of the original show's cast, takes you through

eight animated episodes. This "collector's edition" packages the game with a second CD featuring interviews with Roddenberry and Leonard Nimoy (Spock) and a video of the acclaimed episode "City on the Edge of Forever."

■ "THE NEXT GENERATION: A FINAL UNITY" (Spectrum HoloByte, \$35-\$60): Once you get past the cheesy animation of the teaser, you'll find the sights and sounds surprisingly realistic as you direct the whole "Next Generation" cast in a series of missions. On board the Enterprise, you're the captain. When you leave the ship, you can choose to be any member of the away team. Ultimately, neither is as compelling as the first-person approach of "Harbinger" or "Klingon," but the story, as Capt. Jean-Luc Picard might say, is engaging.

■ "THE NEXT GENERATION INTERACTIVE TECHNICAL MANUAL" (Simon & Schuster Interactive, \$24.95): Take the guided tour narrated by Frakes if you like, but the real fun is exploring this deserted 360-degree photographic representation of the Enterprise on your own. Transit mode is definitely a hoot.

■ "25TH ANNIVERSARY" (Interplay, \$29.95): It all began here with this collection of animated episodes, released initially on floppies with only music and later on CD with voices of the crew. ■

Star Trekware:

Boldly going where no man has gone before

Co-workers more likely to sexually harass than bosses, study says

By Kirstin Downey
Grimsley
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

LECHEROUS BOSSES ARE the stereotypical villains in popular perceptions of sexual harassment, but a new study of large US corporations finds that co-workers are the most frequent perpetrators in reported cases.

The study, conducted by the New York-based American Management Association for The Washington Post, found that of 1,366 sexual harassment complaints brought to the attention of officials at a sampling of US companies, about half the cases involved the victims' peers or co-workers. In contrast, only about 26 percent involved the victims' direct supervisors.

"Companies are looking up and down when they should be looking horizontally," said Eric Rolfe Greenberg, director of research of the AMA, which represents the nation's major employers. "It might not be the person above you or below you on the organizational chart, but on the person next to you on the assembly line or in the next cubicle."

Those findings did not surprise Mary Ellen Capek, executive director of the National Council for Research on Women, who said co-worker harassment poses troublesome problems for companies

because it is easier to intervene with a single supervisor than to change the "culture of the organization" that allows co-worker harassment.

But Ellen Bravo, national director of the organization 9to5, which operates a sexual harassment telephone hot line, said she believes the AMA numbers mask the reality that victims are more likely to report co-workers than supervisors because they fear losing their jobs if they speak up about the boss. "Of the people who call us, at least half, if not more, say it is their supervisor" causing the problem, Bravo said.

The AMA survey found that sexual harassment situations are affecting a growing number of US companies. In November 1991, following the Senate hearings into sexual harassment allegations made by Anita Hill against then-Supreme Court Justice nominee Clarence Thomas, about 52 percent of companies said they had experienced at least one sexual harassment report. The new survey, completed last week, found that number has now

grown to 73 percent of companies responding.

The AMA surveyed its 1,740 members by fax last week, and got responses by fax from 456 companies—a good response rate for such a sensitive topic. About 30 percent of those responding are located in the Midwest and 26 percent are in the Northeast. About a quarter of them have less than \$10 million a year in annual sales, and 37 have more than \$1 billion in annual sales. Most—or about 45 percent—are manufacturing companies.

The survey revealed that, in the murky area of what legally constitutes sexual harassment, the top officials at the companies surveyed are also unsure of exactly what it is. For example, although they overwhelmingly said that sexually explicit language, sexy pictures and sex in exchange for jobs or better shifts is sexual harassment, they were almost evenly split in their opinions on the issues of "incidental body contact" or "greetings involving hugging and kissing."

Occasionally when the chips are down, they can be up

By Carrie Nefle Moye
Star US Correspondent

OCCASIONALLY FAIRY tales come true, even in the world of high finance. This is the story of an unremarkable junk food which has a most remarkable anything-but-junk-food, crisp, Olympian ending.

The Budweiser corporation, like all "official sponsors" of the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, paid \$40 million to be listed among the elite. Thus one of its products, Eagle potato chips, had been granted the exclusive license to be given as free chips for the participants and to be sold by all venue concessions associated with the Games.

Budweiser, hoping to make a mint and needing the capital for its more prominent product, placed its potato chip operation on the market. It was an unsuccessful ploy. Frito-Lay, a much larger name in the chip industry, needed the Budweiser/Eagle facilities to increase its production. Frito-Lay purchased the Eagle plants and Eagle, as a chip, began to die by attrition.

Frito-Lay is owned by PepsiCo. One can not say that Atlanta-based Coca-Cola "owns" the 1996 Summer Olympics, but suffice it to state that not only is the home-town drink more powerful in Atlanta, but also it has been a sponsor of the Olympics for 68 years. There would be no PepsiCo/Frito-Lay potato chips endorsed as "official" in the Olympics held in Atlanta.

It was too late to begin a search for another chip company.

Word soon spread that potato chips served to participants in the Games and that chips sold by

officially sanctioned vendors would be contained in brown bags. This was not rumor; this was true.

Going back to 1986, the then US oil crisis resulted in thousands of workers in the industry, particularly in Texas, being given pink slips. One engineer so affected was Ron, a native of Louisiana. He returned to his home state, pondering what he would do with the rest of his life. During a conversation with his wife, she offered him a "kettle" potato chip. Ron tasted it and replied, "I can do better than this." He did. He experimented until he produced a low-calorie chip which he named "Zapp's."

Flash forward to the '90s and meet Emily, coincidentally a Louisiana native who has made her home in Atlanta since the late '70s. Emily is a self-trained marketing wizard. As she puts it, her husband always saw the doughnut; she saw the hole and wondered how she could fill it. She heard of "Zapp's," met Ron, and introduced the chip to the Georgia market. Though rapidly growing, it was still in its adolescent stage.

Then Emily heard the story of brown-bagging America's favorite junk food at the Olympics and was mortified—not just as a marketer but as a patriotic American and a proud Atlantan. Emily telephoned the appropriate persons (after an intricately mazed search) to verify. The official in charge admitted that not only was the brown-bagging true but that indeed she had just left a four-hour meeting spent lamenting the problem, finding no solution. Brown bag it would have to be. Emily responded, "We can do better than that."



You can do better than that. Emily then guaranteed she could supply all the potato chips that could be consumed by participants and attendees at the Games. Furthermore, they would be in colorful bags (which previously had worn several design awards);

they were owned by an individual, not a large corporate competitor; they were American-made, American-distributed; they were in numerous flavors. Lastly, and certainly of no little consequence in today's increasingly health-conscious world, they contain no cholesterol.

Bingo! An answer to everyone's prayers. Connoisseur potato chips will be given and sold at the Summer Olympics. A non-refundable \$40 million was paid by a corporation which could well afford the new "gift" so the Games have their money. An entrepreneur who never could have paid the sponsorship fee has his brainchild prominently displayed in a way no advertiser ever could have devised. An even more enterprising entrepreneur has the solid self-satisfaction of knowing she brought it all together.

Interestingly, Emily, the businesswoman who ultimately played this paramount role responsible for the story-book coup, admits she will realize "about \$3,000." More interestingly, this does not really bother Emily. She would like to get a larger slice of the money, certainly. But she is one of those rare persons who is secure enough psychologically to take her pleasure in knowing she was the key figure in accomplishing the un-doable. And perhaps that fact is even more impressive than the feat itself.

Occasionally events occur which restore one's faith in humankind.

And then there are those who believe one should accept whatever pain life has to offer without seeking to make matters better. ■

JORDAN Today
TOURISM • CULTURE • ENTERTAINMENT
JUNE 1996

STRANGERS IN WADI RUM

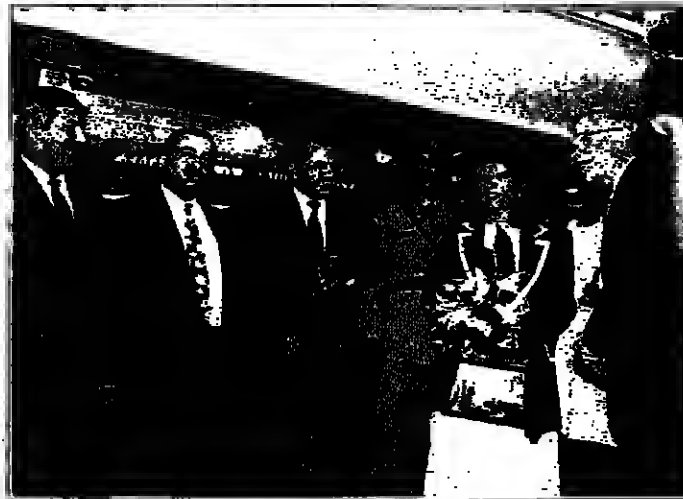
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Princess Sumaya at British Week

Mr Ammar Kansan, general manager of Forte Grand Amman greets HRH Princess Sumaya at the official opening of the "Absolutely British" Week at the hotel. In attendance was the British Ambassador in Amman, Mr Peter Hinchcliffe (right).



Journey into Japanese art at RCC

By Oroub Al Abed
Special to The Star

Numerous cultural activities are taking place during the Japanese Week. They include the Japanese historical costume exhibition, Japanese dolls, calligraphy and the flower arrangement exhibition. They are all under one roof at the Royal Cultural Center.

The Ikebana section of flower arrangement is one of the most stunning Japanese traditional arts. Dating back to the 15th century, this refined art follows a fixed ritual: a triangle representing Heaven, Earth and Man. Emphasis is placed on linear perfection, color harmony, space and form. The basis of flower arrangement involves the mixture of different natural colors of branches, combined with wet, dry, or fainting leaves. In a different rectangular and round-shaped pots, the numerous colors of white, green and pink make the flowers stand out. But this is not all. The thorns with simple fine-scented flowers, fruits of orange and light brown mixed with exotic-colored flowers, produced an arrangement that encompasses nature in all of its aspects, from the tall stately pine to the lowliest blade of grass.

Ikebana today is no longer parochial with a provincial identity. It has developed as part of modern Japanese culture. There are more than 3,000 Ikebana schools in Japan today.

In the historical costume section, traditional Kimonos from different periods were displayed. From the early 19th century Meiji period, remarkable kimonos patterned with pines, plums, bamboos representing the nature of Japan glowed in the hall. Others reflected the landscape with its serenity and purity. The costumes during the late 19th century Edo Period reflected the non-industrialized rural life of Japan. Kimono costumes were embellished with *genji* wheels, harvest time, grains and the landscape. Lions and dragons were also depicted. These were meant to show the beliefs, superstition and ideologies of the time.

Kimonos represented different social strata. Some were made for Samurai girls, others for the nobles and special ones for the empress and emperor. The last costumes represented the Taisho Period of the 20th century. Kimonos are now distinguished by *Thkama*—a large skirt—and *Uchiki*—a long robe with wide sleeves. For women it is dyed in bright harmonious colors and for men it is all black.

Dolls in Japanese art has also flamboyant characteristics that developed from 3000 BC. The dolls are very strong in Japanese mythology. They convey the souls of their gods and are seen as having strong magic powers. Made out of wood, *Kokeshi*

are oblong-shaped dolls with large heads. Colored and ornamented, those are considered as the traditional handicraft of the Tohoku region. Goshio Ningyo are the dolls made in the Imperial Court. They can be recognized by their magnificent handwork and the shell over their back. Nobel dolls were also on the stand at a background of a traditional Japanese folding door with a painting of the sky and the dark black.

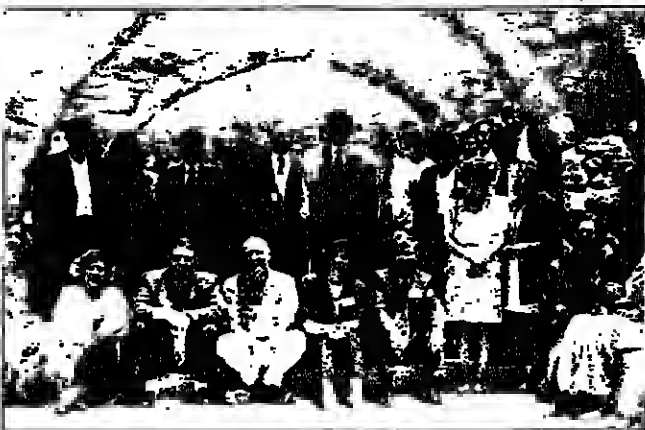
On show there is also Sumo, the drum holder "Kurodo-bushi", the fighter of old ages, the noble girl with the traditional piles on her kimono, and the Temple "Dojoji Temple".

In Japan, as in other countries in that part of the world, calligraphy is a long tradition first instituted by the Chinese. It has become an embedded tradition that is now part of culture.

It's a special way of writing with special Chinese ink. The ink comes also from an oriental culture, that is made of soot from burnt wood or oil mixed with fishbone. Contemplating the long-hanged pieces of poetry might inspire wisdom. In a poem, Lao-tse says:

Man follows land,
Land follows sky,
Sky follows way,
Way follows nature. ■

Air France meets in Taybet Zaman



AIR FRANCE held its regional conference for the Middle East between 4-6 June in Taybet Zaman/Petra. This meeting was presided by Mr. Jean-Pierre Boss, general director for Africa and the Middle East. More than 52 participants from Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Sudan and Iraq attended the conference.

The implementation of the hub '96 at Roissy Charles De Gaulle Airport was on the agenda, 348 connections were created and 64 improved along with the improvement of the quality of service on board Air France flights and the new products that will be on Africa and Middle East lines soon. ■

Farewell reception for Czech envoy

MRS HIND Sherif Nasser, chairperson of the National Music Conservatory's (NMC) Committee, held a farewell reception on Friday night at Artisana (Jordan Arts and Crafts Centre) in honor of Mr. Karel Risinger, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Jordan. During his service, Mr. Risinger rendered a series of exceptional music and cultural activities featuring Czech musicians and performing groups and artists.



These activities were held as part of the cooperation between the National Music Conservatory and the Czech Embassy. The reception was attended by Minister of Education, Dr. Munther Al Masri, and representatives of various Arab and foreign embassies and cultural centers in Jordan. Artisana is a center for antiquities and exquisite gifts that project the authenticity of Jordanian handicrafts. ■

Estee Lauder products streamline skin in days!

IF YOU'VE ever heard women talk about shopping for bathing suits, you know it's the rare creature who is confident about her hips and thighs. The constant stream of diet and exercise articles is a proof that this notoriously hard-to-streamline area is of universal concern. Unfortunately, diet and exercise can only do so much to eliminate those stubborn pockets of fat in the hips and thighs. It has often seemed impossible to change what is often a genetic predisposition to the familiar dimpled, "orange peel" condition known as cellulite.

Up until now, conventional thinking has led us to believe that cellulite is a fat problem. But thinking on their extraordinary research into the nature and behavior of the skin, Estee Lauder's research scientists have concluded that, in fact, cellulite is a skin problem. From this new understanding emerges the key to reducing the appearance of cellulite and preventing it from developing in the first place: Estee Lauder's Thigh Zone Body Streamlining Complex. Moreover, this sophisticated formula with exclusive Enzyme Technology and Multi-Fruit Acids is effective without massage, alcohol or caffeine. The luxurious, concentrated lotion works to:

- Smooth and resurface skin texture with Multi-Fruit Acids
- Help diminish the appearance of dimpled, "orange peel" skin
- Encourage and help maintain a firmer, slimmer, streamlined appearance.
- Help prevent the future appearance of cellulite.

OVERHEARD AT TURINO..

The Turino Restaurant New Menu???

The feature editor of this column has learned that Turino has overhauled its menu to what it calls the Great New Menu of Turino?

It is simply a menu set out in a new style by adding a few Oriental dishes, new flavours and softer splashes of gastronomy flair. The menu is called "great" because of its expected production in style and colour of material that will probably make it one of the most unusual menu formats.

The food is far more important and the stress Turino puts on its quality of ingredients is already paying off especially with the foreign community. THIS MONTH'S MOTTO FOR TURINO RESTAURANT IS FOOD, FUN AND GASTRONOMY.

FOR THE VISITOR TO JORDAN, TURINO RESTAURANT IS TUCKED AROUND THE MAIN SQUARE OF SWEIFEYEH ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF 6TH CIRCLE.

As a reader of this column of "The Star" request a bottle of or at least a glass of wine if you are a group of four. You'll definitely get away with it, no matter how small your meal!!

The Turino Restaurant has now become famous for its Sizzling Fillet and Exotic Sauces. THE NEW ADDITION IS THE SAUTÉED CHICKEN ON THE SKEWER SERVED WITH ORIENTAL RICE AND FRESH HERBS.

TURINO guarantees that the chef uses the highest quality ingredients absolutely for all menu items. The important point to mention here is the all-inclusive price for bar guests this Summer.

PASTA CARNIVAL JD 10
SKEWER LINE JD 12
SEAFOOD & SHIMP JD 13
All include taxes and service

Call Turino for reservation on 863944 extn 31. You might even get free transport if you are a large party!!

Try Turino. Do call. It really is worth it

Al Shawa paints with an expressionist touch

By Eyad Ammari
Special to The Star

A landmark in the History of Art in Jordan is an exhibition by the American-Arab artist Noelle Shawa. On display were 99 works in figurative expression that courageously present a style of an un-excavated area.

Al Shawa presented works that artists in the Middle East, and specifically Jordan, did not approach. Although many artists concentrate on figures, she presents body studies and bare figures that challenge the limits put on artists in the Arab world. "There's no specific reason why I do bodies, but maybe because I'm an expressionist," she told *The Star*. Al Shawa is very experimental with colors and her compositions always focus on the observing eye without straining it. "I use figures because, through the movement of color, I suggest a certain notion. I also use them as the base for color and texture. Maybe I use them as an excuse for anything I want to say," she added.

Most of the figures have things in common. Yet, they all carry a different gesture or an expression. "A slight movement in the body makes a notion, and that alone creates a

whole difference," Al Shawa has a good grounding in anatomy and model drawing. Her works display a sense of comfort in handling the human body and expanding on it with exaggerated features at times and contrasting colors at the other. "It doesn't let you stop because there's nothing to limit you, not even the figure itself. Other things could be the same but the difference is that in reality, the bodies actually breathe and move, so every little shake has a 100 options for creativity and creation."

Al Shawa concentrates on the composition, specifically with the body of the paint as well as the colors. In the oil on canvas works, the same figure would still stand the same if each was created all in one color. The very thick paint and the rough brush strokes, which accentuate the objects and add features, are a sign of the strength she has in dealing with her objects. She manages to balance composition, color and gesture without sacrificing one for the other. "I think a painting should be comfortable visually. To start with, when I work on a painting, it has to be comfortable, then I would go along. The composition is the base of the painting. And after I compose the elements, I compose the



colors. I don't believe that one could have a good color combination without a solid base, however."

From the works displayed, which were created over a three-year period since her last exhibition, one could see that Al Shawa went through varying phases quickly and energetically.

A step after her earlier Fauve and Pointillist works, she is a neo-expressionist that can create her own styles one after the other. The works show that although the media changes, she comes back to the obvious favorite of oil on canvas. The links are a school in their own way. Varying background/foreground attention, different color arrangements and choice,

and free moving objects and figures put the exhibition as a historical survey of what takes artists years to produce.

The works are also aesthetically appealing and beautiful. "What I do is strictly me and that's how I would like to see things. My paintings are very much like my surrounding of how I would like them to be."

A holder of BA of Fine Arts from Yarmouk University, she was keen on figures and portraits since her training years. This exhibition will be her last in Jordan as she is leaving to the United States to continue her career as an artist. She had two solo exhibitions which were no less successful, and six group exhibitions. The exhibit is on till June 30. ■

Jerash starts with a bang

Jordan's most important cultural event, the Jerash Festival is taking place from 17 July till 3 August. As usual, many events are held in the three-week period.

Mr Akram Masarweh, director general of the festival, said the venue this year is a remarkable even witnessing many activities that range from local and international folklore to exhibitions and poetry evenings.

"Ever since it started, the festival's role has been to promote culture and art and link between the cultures of The Arab world." The festival has an international message of culture. Culture is the catchword in today's world.

Many artistic groups will be performing on seven historic theaters in Jerash. Such shows include ballet, opera, piano recitals, theatrical performances like *Julia and Donna*, directed by Sharif Al Khazendar from the Institute of World Cultures in France. "Such highly refined art contributed much to shape the cultural tastes of Jordanians and motivated them to think more about creating their own groups."

said Masarweh.

Traditional singers include Al Qudud al Halabia from Aleppo, Al Maqam from Iraq, and Sufi singing. "We need to introduce such traditional types of singing so that the new generations can benefit in refining their tastes," he said.

The Jerash Festival of Arts and Culture always seeks to benefit from other world festivals' experiences. It was twined with the Carthage Festival in Tunisia and the Institute of World Cultures in Paris. "We are planning to have the same agreement with the Institute of the Arabic World in Paris," said Masarweh.

He explained the policy of the festival in recruiting participating groups. He said that we try to balance the kind of artistic groups we meet. There are still a great number of countries whose exotic art can be displayed in Jerash in the coming years. "We still have in mind a lot of groups who can be invited to Jerash from Africa, Latin America and the Far East," he added.

"The festival is for Jordanians all over the country," said Masarweh. To achieve

this motto

some activities will take place at the citadel of Kerak, Ajlun and Amman and Riwaq Al Balqa in Al Fuheis.

Poetry sessions will be held in cooperation with Abd Al Hamid Shoman Foundation in Amman. At the top of the list for this year are many Arab artists. The Lebanese artist Majda Al Roomi will kick off the festival. Next will be the Syrian Sahab Fakhr. This will be followed by Mustafa Qamar from Egypt. ■



Masarweh

THE FAR SIDE



At the Dog Museum



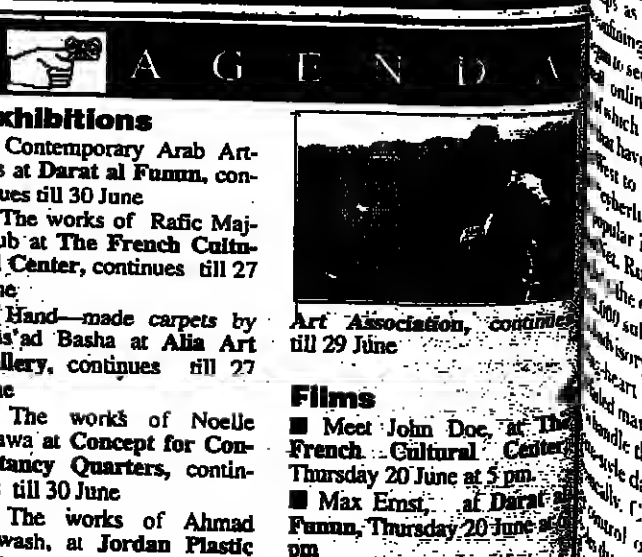
Gratitid in hell



Punk accountants



Monster game shows



AGENDA

Exhibitions

- Contemporary Arab Artists at Darat al Funun, continues till 30 June
- The works of Rafic Majzoub at The French Cultural Center, continues till 27 June
- Hand-made carpets by Mas'ad Basha at Alia Art Gallery, continues till 27 June
- The works of Noelle Shawa at Concept for Consultancy Quarters, continues till 30 June
- The works of Ahmad Nawash, at Jordan Plastic

Films

- Meet John Doe, at The French Cultural Center, Thursday 20 June at 5 pm
- Max Ernst, at Darat al Funun, Thursday 20 June at 5 pm

20 JUNE
SIDE
GARY LARSON
THE PERFECT STICK



JUNE 1996
A special section offering
fresh perspectives on
global issues prepared for
The Star

THE WORLD PAPER

PRINTED IN FIVE LANGUAGES
ON FIVE CONTINENTS



After apartheid, virtual reality looks good to South Africans

Grass appears greener on the Internet

By Fiona Leney

WHITISH-BLUE glow emanates from the window of a small, tin-roofed building in the Nelson Mandela township, near Port Alfred. Inside, a group of teen-agers huddle around a screen. They may be in South Africa, but their minds are surfing the Internet, calling in on the friends they have made overseas.

This isn't a fictional scene; the township really does have its own Internet link, courtesy of Rhodes University in Grahamstown, which donated a computer and set up the Internet link to encourage students from under-privileged backgrounds to learn more about the outside world.

It is a situation typical of the new South Africa, caught astride the depths of timeless African poverty and the brilliant technology of 21st century First World technology. In Cape Town, a man is enclosed in a glass cubicle, cut off from the world but for his Internet link. Richard Wideman wants badly to prove his point—the immense potential for low-cost communications that the Internet can offer Africa—and also

raise money to bring computers and the Internet into South African schools.

"The whole thing started when I was watching the movie, *The Shawshank Redemption*. I was struck by the thought that someone who was thrown into solitary confinement who had an Internet connection could be more in touch with what was going on around the planet than anyone who had their liberty," he said, via an e-mail interview. "I suddenly realized this would be an ideal way to explain this 'new' communications technology to the world."

Wideman was locked up for 88 days, his only contact with society via the Internet connection or a glass observation door, through which curious visitors could peep. His experience turned his thoughts to existential philosophy—not something the layman would immediately associate with the Internet. "I started to suspect that life is a sophisticated virtual reality, with a really neat simulated environment and a super set of sensual personal interfaces. I converse more easily with a person in Sweden than with a person walk-

ing below my window," he observed.

Wideman may be an extreme case, but South Africa, though a latecomer to the joys of the World-Wide Web, is embracing it with the enthusiasm of the newly converted. It is already the 18th most-wired country in the world; e-mail addresses and Web sites are commonplace.

To drown in an ocean of information, to roam the world (even if only intellectually) unmonitored and unen-

sured is still a novel joy for South Africans, accustomed to decades of strict state control over "subversive" material under the old apartheid regime.

Dating services, like elsewhere in the world, are a big hit. South African men, notoriously sexist and with the amorous subtlety of rhinos, according to their female victims, are, it seems, still shy virgins at heart. And in a country where spaces really are big enough

to keep even ardent lovers apart, "virtual romances" are becoming more and more commonplace.

But where does the gritty reality of Krugersdorp end and the wild romance of floating in cyberspace take over? In a country like South Africa, the gap between the everyday economic reality of millions and the high-tech life of a few makes the very act of being able to tap into the Internet surreal.

Gavin Falser, who runs an Internet café in Pretoria, says that he has seen customers begin to live their lives on the Net. "It fulfills a social role, from students to 60-year-olds. When people see what the Net can do, they get hooked," he says.

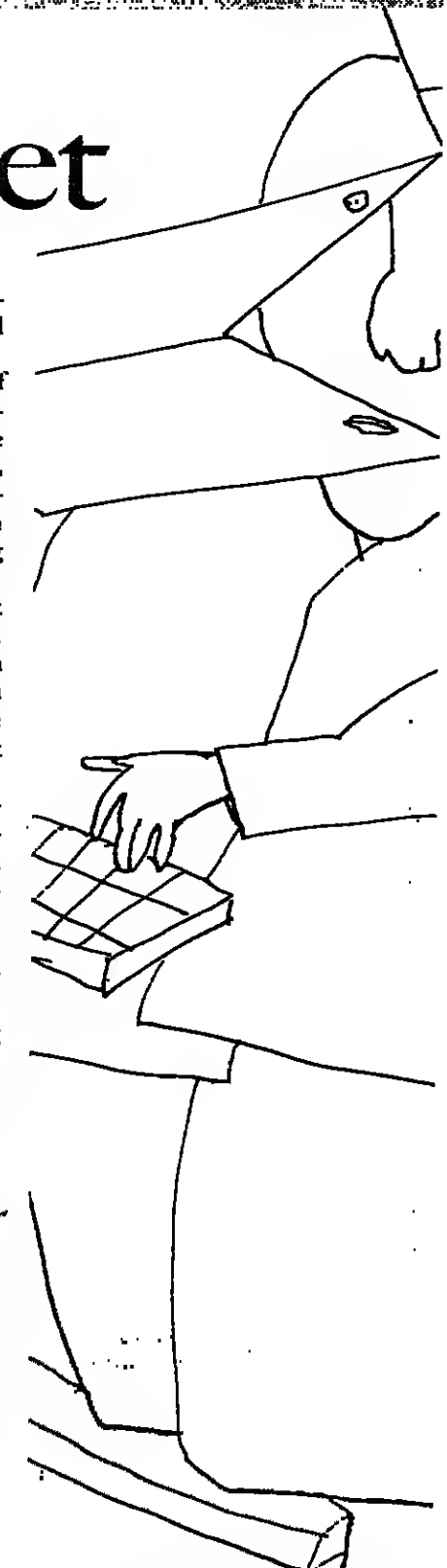
At the technological level, however, users are still unsophisticated. Perhaps it's just as well. South African surfers are still ignorant of the pleasures and dangers of "bots," the fiendishly cunning programs devised to carry out tasks on the Internet for their creators.

Instead, a common theme running through the many Internet columns in newspapers (interesting that we still turn to the good old written page to converse about the electronic superhighway) is how disappointing the Internet can be. Complaints about poor connections, wading through endless junk on the Net, and incomprehensible downloading instructions give some idea of the high expectations raised—and dashed—by the Net over here.

Service providers have to take some responsibility. A call to the allegedly most user-friendly of the big players elicited an enthusiastic half-hour monologue of gobbledegook about all the fantastic things I would be able to do once hooked up to the Net.

Perhaps the market hasn't yet reached the level of sophistication where really advanced technology meets really simple explanations for the techno-inert majority. One service that does appeal immediately and universally is the potential for using the Internet as a cheap international phone line. Facilities already exist in South Africa to dial-up a local number and somehow get a message to somebody thousand of kilometers away—as long as they, too, are on the Net, of course.

The idea is catching on. Even Telecommunications Minister Pallo Jordan held an e-mail chat-in a few months ago, although the silent, visionless link made it easy for him to ignore the ques-



The Internet's fascination is universal

Holding the line on cyberspace taxes

Asia's leaders

By Amitabha Chowdhury

THE RELATIONSHIP between the people of Southeast Asia and information technology is accelerating with blazing speed. In some parts of the region, the leadership clearly hopes to keep this relationship platonic, but cyberhumans, it seems, will not be held down.

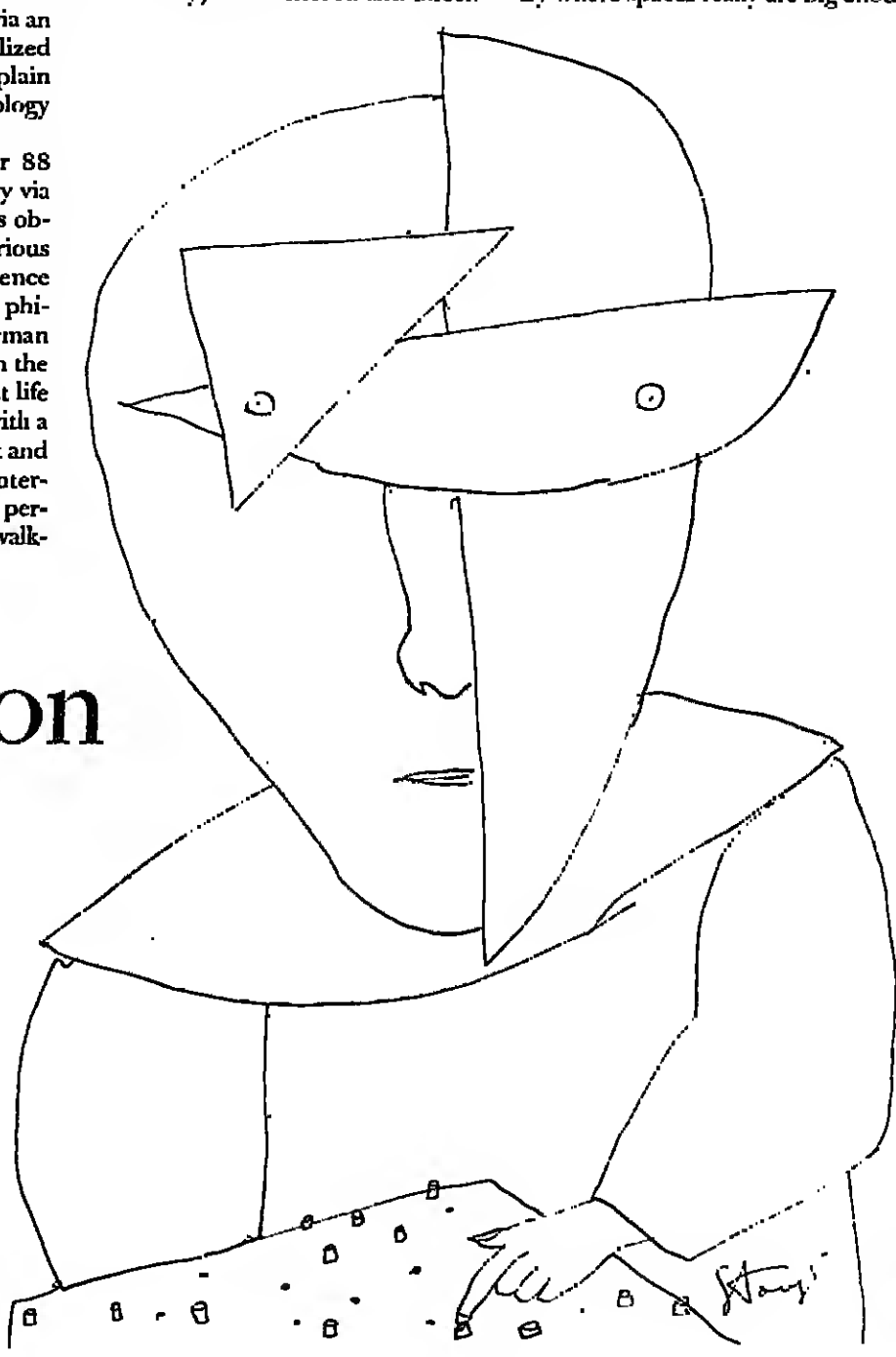
Observers agree that the cybersociety in the region still consists largely of e-mail users and computer buffs. Also, a stigma of elitism has attached itself to the technology. Its users are the English-speaking populace of Asia, and it remains a tool for this privileged minority. Because of this upper-class clientele, the manifestations of cyberhumanity in Asia tend to be fairly tame—they keep the system free from hacks abusing it as a tool for crime or pornography.

The major exception to the general pattern is China, where the government's ambivalence is reflected in two sharply contrasting policies. It clearly recognizes how the new technology can be used for economic and scientific growth, and therefore gives academia wide access to the Internet. At the same time regulations carefully control its use by individuals and students abroad. Users are required to have a license, thereby subjecting Internet subscribers to an intimidating police process.

Perhaps as a reaction to these confining moves, China is beginning to see the sprouting of small, online companies, many of which offer the services and access that have prompted observers to West to run up warning flags about cyberhumans. One of the most popular is a newcomer called Net Run, by an enterprising entrepreneur. The extra-smart Net serves 2,000 subscribers with a wide range of advisory services, often of the bleeding-heart style, and talking about failed marriages and tips about how to handle the first night out on a Western-style date.

Ironically, China is about to assume control of the society which provides the greatest scope for cross-border communication, at the very time when the line between humans and cyberspace. One estimate puts Hong

Drugs that allow people to reinvent their personalities are generally regulated, banned or criminalized. Will this be the fate of cyberspace, whose users cherish its scope for fashioning new realities as they "surf" back and forth across the blurry line between technology and humanity



Kong's 1994-95 growth of Internet subscribers at over 1,000 percent, leaping from 15,000 at the end of 1994 to 150,000 in the third quarter of 1995. At the same time its governance has also been kept at a nominal level, giving journalists some grounds for describing Hong Kong's Internet growth as "anarchic." As a result of this policy, Hong Kong has the largest number of Internet providers and lowest subscription rates in the region.

At the other end of the non-communist spectrum, Singapore is regarded as the strictest gate keeper of the growing cybercommunity. In the middle, it is not hard to explain why Kuala Lumpur is turning out a record-shattering monthly growth rate of 22 percent, in spite of an inhibiting government policy muddle about which department will supervise this growth.

The Philippines, on the other hand, has a free-for-all approach similar to Hong Kong and, according to the latest count, boasts as many as 28 providers (in Hong Kong the number runs to over 200). Even so, the number of subscribers in the Philippines has grown at a far slower rate than Malaysia, largely because of its troubled telephone system.

Singapore's policy towards the Internet has been skeptical at best. The

international gateway is entirely under government control, and the number of service providers has been limited to three. The price of this service, ranging between US\$19.60 and \$21.30 for an average of 16 hours a month, is also higher than the rate in Hong Kong.

But the real dampening factor in Singapore, analysts say, is the government's publicly expressed attitude of suspicion towards the tool and the threat a growing cybersociety may pose to Singapore's patriarchal regime. The system's unfettered global information flow is something that flies right in the face of Lee Kuan Yew's authoritarian national culture.

In line with the state's well-defined political philosophy, therefore, the current Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong has tried both in his own country and at a recent meeting of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) ministers to stonewall the libertarianism that a cyberculture makes inevitable. Barring Vietnam, however, all other members of the powerful conclave remain cool to Singapore's advocacy.

In addition to the controls it already applies as the exclusive international gate-keeper, Singapore is getting legislation to "filter and block the transmission" of anything it deems unfit for its citizens to view or

to broadcast abroad. It's doubtful even the next door neighbor, Malaysia, will follow this authoritarian lead.

Bala Pillai, a respected commentator on Asia's Internet scene, has an interesting anecdote to tell about the recent Internet World Asia meeting in Kuala Lumpur. When a question was raised at the conference about Singapore's attempt to supervise the Internet flow, a US-based panelist responded by gesturing with a clasped hand that "censoring the Net is like trying to catch smoke in your hands," reports Bala. But obviously neither Singapore nor China is prepared to concede the supremacy of the Net technology without offering a reasonable fight.

Ironically though—and perhaps to prove the point made at the Kuala Lumpur conference—the first "underground" newspaper that has surfaced on Asia's Web originates from Suharto's tightly controlled island nation of Indonesia. Former journalists of the banned weekly *Tempo* have launched a product on the Internet, called *Tempo Interactive*. It attempts to provide in cyberspace what the government banned them from printing. ®

AMITABHA CHOWDHURY is *The World Paper's* ASSOCIATE EDITOR FOR SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA.

tions he did not fancy answering.

Because it is almost impossible to detect whether voice or data is being sent down the lines, a few computer buffs here are already cheating the state phone company, Telekom, out of thousands of dollars.

As it stands, Telekom's prices and attitude to customer service ranks it somewhere above the tax man on the nation's most-hated index. It would somehow be fitting if the terrifying face of cyberspace were to become South Africa's favorite link to the outside world. ®

FIONA LENEY WRITES FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN DAILY FINANCIAL NEWSPAPER *Business Report*.

It's a hot new world

Losing your job to a computer is one of the occupational hazards of the late 20th century. The solution? Become computer literate, so that you can earn a paycheck operating this labor-saving information technology. But this strategy has a drawback; it doesn't take into account bots.

Bots?

Computer programs designed to operate autonomously in cyberspace, bots roam the Internet performing a host of more-or-less useful tasks. Properly programmed, a bot can spend 24 hours a day searching for specific documents, clearing out data bases or keeping watch on electronically transmitted commodity prices. This ability to do repetitive info-work may spell another round of layoff notices for a group that, in the US at least, has felt relatively insulated from the economic pressures spawned by the global economy.

Bots also present another challenge to those who earn their living working the online webs and nets—they often have the power of speech. Known as "chatterbots," they are programmed to respond to certain keywords. The more sophisticated can build up vocabularies and speech patterns based on past conversations. In time, human operators will have to interact with bots in order to direct (or divert) them.

Telling bot from human is getting increasingly difficult. Sherry Turkle, author of *Life on the Screen: Identity in the Age of the Internet*, recalls that she has assumed "that a person was a program when a character's responses seemed too automatic, too machine-like." Adds Turkle; "And sometimes bots are mistaken for people. I have made this mistake too, fooled by a bot that flattered me by recalling my name or our last interaction."

If bots don't complicate your job by doing it faster or blurring the line between human and program, they may do it by wrecking the electronic environment you work in. Bots that "kill" other bots, bots that replicate endlessly, bots that keep sending messages to a single electronic mailbox—all exist in cyberspace.

—Cameron Brandt

Hype or hate colors debate on cyberhumanity

Computers change from servants to partners

By Sherry Turkle

WHEN I WROTE *The Second Self* 10 years ago, most people's interactions with computer technology were one-on-one, the person with the machine. In that context, I found that the computer was a powerfully evocative object, an object that provoked thought and, in particular, self-re-

flection. By late 1980s, as I continued to study the computer culture, I became aware of two significant changes in the relationships between people and computers. They motivated me to write *Life on the Screen*.

First, the models that the computer offered for thinking about the human mind were rapidly shifting. In the 1970s and early 1980s, these models offered up by the computer had been mechanistic. The professor in my first computer science course in 1976 described the computer as a "giant calculator," a machine which you could know by "opening the hood and looking inside." Yet within 10 years, the computer culture offered a radically different set of images of what constituted "knowing" one's computer.

With the introduction of the Macintosh interface in 1984, the way people were told to get to know a computer was through navigation, experimentation and playing with it. It was the knowledge of the thinker. And the model of mind that followed from modeling mind on computer is associative, almost biological in its emphasis on "emergence."

To me, something quite fascinating had happened. For nearly a half century, the computer's image was that of a machine which encouraged a "mechanistic" style of thought. Now the opposite was the case.

The second set of changes that inspired me to write *Life on the Screen* had less to do

with epistemology and more to do with communication.

Increasingly, it was computers that were mediating people's interactions with each other. On the Internet, some people sensed a freedom to experiment, to engage in what I came to think of as identity play. They could play out aspects of self that they found hard to express in their everyday lives, they could explore new interests, new kinds of friends in online environments that felt safe.

The more I heard other people talk about Internet addiction, the more I felt that this was the wrong metaphor. Addiction is always negative. You don't look back fondly on your years of heroin addiction and reflect on how you "grew." But people are able to go through long periods of finding the Internet quite compelling and use the experiences they have with it to work through significant real-life issues. Of course, this is not universally the case, but my studies of Internet use turned up many very intriguing cases.

So, while it may look for a while, as though a given individual is addicted as they spend increasing amounts of time pursuing online relationships, in the end they may be learning things about themselves that they will put to use in their offline relationships. For many people, life on the screen represents a kind of "moratorium," an always-available vacation that can be highly productive in psychological terms.

In general, a great deal of our talk about technology such as computers, the Internet, the Web, is either of the "hype or hate" variety. Either computers are the best thing ever, a solution to many social ills or they are alien and intrusive beasts with dire effects on the individual and the social fabric. Both the hype and hate positions are technologically deterministic. They put too much emphasis on what the technology can do, both for good or bad. I wrote *Life on*

the screen to make the point that different people bring technology into their lives in very different ways. The computer is a Rorschach, a mirror of our differences. It is up to us to make it work for us.

In some ways, we may be at the end of the Freudian century. Freud after all, was a child of the 19th century; of course, he was carrying the baggage of a very different scientific sensibility than our own. But from my point of view as an anthropologist of cyberspace, those who make the most of their lives on the Internet, their lives on the screen, are those who can deeply reflect on the aspects of self that are revealed there. Our need for a practical philosophy of self-knowledge, one that does not shy away from

issues of multiplicity, complexity, and ambivalence, has never been greater as we struggle to make meaning from our lives on the screen.

It is fashionable to think that we have passed from a psychoanalytic culture to a computer culture—that we no longer need to think in terms of Freudian slips but rather of information processing errors. But the reality is more complex. It would be timely to rethink our relationship to the computer culture and psychoanalytic culture as a proudly bled joint citizenship. ©

SHERRY TURKLE IS A PROFESSOR OF THE SOCIOLOGY OF SCIENCE AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.

Can people be trusted to reinvent themselves?

Uncaged identities roam the screen

By Stefano Rodotà

"IDENTITY" CAN BE a disquieting word. It recalls conflicts that, for the sake of ethnic identity, occur with atrocious violence from Bosnia to Liberia. On the individual level, it evokes images of doubt and loneliness—"an invisible empty space, within which reality exists," as the great Austrian novelist Robert Musil described it. But which reality? One made up by simply entering existing data, or a work in constant and variable progress?

The scientific and technical revolutions of this century's end suggest diverse answers to these questions. If we are prisoners of genetics, there is a strong temptation to define identity as something fixed by the DNA we inherit from our ancestors. On the other hand, if we are free to move in the world of information and communication technology, if we navigate the Internet, identity reveals itself as the outcome of unceasing experimentation and deliberate change.

But what forces drive this change? In her latest book, *Life on the Screen: Identity in the Age of the Internet*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Sherry Turkle outlines with crystal clarity the paths taken by individuals and groups, suggesting some answers to this difficult question.

First, identity's essential reference points are changing, because we find "real life" being substituted by "virtual life" and for a growing number of people virtual life is becoming the real thing. Secondly, there is also a mutation in the meaning of reality. No longer is it "external." Now it can be the product of the central character: "The self is constructed and the rules of the social interaction are built, not received," Turkle notes.

The context in which an increasing number of individuals build identity minute-by-minute is changing radically. Their way is shown by computers, their

horizon is traced by the network. Only yesterday we were saying that the medium is the message; should we now say that machine is the identity; that identity tends to be dislocated as a whole in the technological apparatus?

The "self" now corresponds to the multiple windows open on the computer screen; "Windows have become a powerful metaphor for thinking about the self as a multiple, distributed system," observes Turkle. In this way computers and networks push to new extremes the identity crisis that psychology has explored, mapped and defined. Turkle highlights the fact that the new metaphors of multiplicity and flexibility can now be applied "not only to human mental and physical spheres, but also to the bodies of corporations, governments, and businesses." Any kind of age, sex and employment barrier can be broken.

Variability takes over stability. And this can be taken to the point of assuming someone else's identity: I am the other person. In this way, while navigating the Internet anyone can meet his or her "double." Thus, identity becomes detached from its "owner," free to lead a nomadic existence on the Net.

But is this an enrichment of the personality? Or is it a dangerous way of playing with it? And what are the consequences of accepting this "culture of simulation," of accomplishing this creation of the virtual reality universe?

Turkle has analyzed the protean character of identity, its thousand faces which make it far distant from the Greek philosopher Parmenides's "well rounded identity," which he conceived as a solid and unassailable sphere. Turkle stresses the flexible character of the self, its capacity for including different and even contradictory dimensions, its ability to arrange a transitional space such as a computer screen.

A continuously enriched and multifaceted identity can be hardly reduced to simple, limited parameters. This means that it should become more difficult, and less acceptable, to discriminate based on standard criteria or automated profiles. The discovery of this different dimension

of identity implies recognition that everyone is unique, and consequently rejects social stigmatization based on a failure to conform to the characteristics of a hypothetical majority.

But a solid identity also works as a way of recognizing people with our own common identity traits. If we exclusively stress diversity, this chance of finding common ground is lost, and the likely outcome of interaction is friction—if not violent uprisings. Identity becomes therefore the limit of someone's distance. Which raises another question: Is it possible to reconcile either diversity with identity or solidarity with identity?

Tracking the answer to this question, we can go back to the dynamics outlined in *Life on the Screen*. The risks of isolation, deriving from an exclusive relationship with computers, are well known. Computers restrict or exclude other

forms of interpersonal relations, enclosing the individual in its virtual world. Yet the virtual dimension can also—by allowing relatively risk-free exploration—be a starting point for a richer return to a previously rejected reality. This allows the construction of new communities, able to generate social bonds that are otherwise lost or impossible. Most of all, virtuality is now an aspect of reality to be reckoned with.

This more complex reality is penetrating all levels of modern society. There are people who look at it as a natural sphere of liberty, a dimension in which democracy can bloom anew. But there are others who recognize that life on the screen can lead to a thorough control of citizens, that its contribution to politics by the end of the century may be new forms of populism.

Turkle's study deserves credit for highlighting the links between the personal and common dimensions of cyberspace, showing the difficult new paths our political community must travel. ©

STEFANO RODOTÀ, A PROFESSOR OF LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ROME, IS A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN UNION'S LEGAL ADVISORY BOARD ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY.



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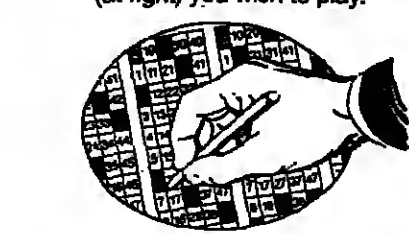
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The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on JTV from 22-28 June

ENGLISH PROGRAMS SATURDAY

3:00—Moomin
3:30—Pumpkin Patch
4:00—Blue Heelers
4:40—Big Brother Jake
5:00—European Championship
7:30—News Headline
7:35—The Torkelsons
8:00—Album Show
8:55—Our Planet, Our Earth
9:10—Miami Vice
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:10—Feature Film: *A Hazard of Hearts*, starring, Diana Rigg and Edward Fox

SUNDAY

3:00—The Mask
3:30—Mac and Muley
4:55—News Flash
5:00—European Championship
6:45—Varieties
7:00—French Program
7:30—News Headline
7:35—Cinema, Cinema
8:00—American Chart Show
8:45—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
9:10—Black's Magic
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Counterstrike
11:15—Short Story Cinema
11:50—Nelson's Column

MONDAY

3:00—Bonkers
3:30—Richie Rich
4:00—Animals of the Mediterranean
5:00—News Flash

5:01—French Programs
7:30—News Headlines
7:35—The Nanny
8:25—Rock Around the World
9:10—100 Years of Capitalism in Korea
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:10—Hawaii 5-O
12:00—Matlock

TUESDAY

3:00—Iris, the Happy Professor
3:20—Captain Planet
3:45—The Bob Morrison Show
4:30—All
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
8:25—Deep Probe Expeditions
9:10—Star Trek
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Feature Film: *For the Love of Aaron*, starring, Meredith Baxter and Mathew Walker
11:50—My Two Wives

WEDNESDAY

3:00—Iris, the Happy Professor
3:30—The Flintstones
3:45—Bill Nye, the Science Guy
4:20—Kelly
5:00—News Flash
5:01—French Programs
6:00—European Championship



Madonna in Album Show, on Saturday at 8:00 pm

8:10—Chancer
9:10—Hunter
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—The Bold and the Beautiful
11:10—Airwolf

THURSDAY

3:00—Double Dragon
3:30—NBA
4:30—Pirates
5:00—French Programs
7:35—Carol and Company
8:00—Tarata
9:10—Star Trek
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Feature Film: *Crystal Heart*, starring, Lloyd Bochner

FRIDAY

3:00—Iris, the Happy Professor
3:20—Pebbles and Bam-Bam Show
3:45—Bush School
3:55—Gillette World Sports
4:20—The Crystal Maze
5:00—French Programs
7:35—Growing Paris
8:00—Nasty Boys
9:10—The Wanderer
10:00—News at Ten
10:25—Classic Movie: *Verdict*, starring James Stewart and Kim Novak

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

SAMEDI

5:00—Dessins animés
Ordy
5:15—Emission jeunesse
La vie devant moi
5:30—Jeux
Que le meilleur gagne
6:00—Série
Château Vallon
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Faut pas rêver
«Pérou»
5:00—Dessins animés
Ordy
5:15—Emission jeunesse
La vie devant moi
5:30—Jeux
Que le meilleur gagne
6:00—Magazine
Envoyé spécial
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

LUNDI

5:00—Dessins animés
Ordy
5:15—Divertissement
L'école des fans
«Pierre Bachelet»
6:00—Magazine
Thalassa
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Cinq sur cinq

MARDI

5:00—Dessins animés
Ordy

5:15—Emission jeunesse
La vie devant moi
5:30—Jeux
Que le meilleur gagne
6:00—Magazine
Savoir plus santé
«Comment vaincre l'hypertension»
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Ushuaïa
«Greenpeace»

MERCREDI

5:00—Dessins animés
5:30—Série
Simenon
«Ceux de la soif»
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Sports et musique

JEUDI

5:00—Dessin animé
5:30—Variétés
Le monde est à vous
«Serge Regiani»
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Ushuaïa
8:00—Variétés
Tarata
«Lenny Kravitz»

VENREDI

5:00—Dessins animés
5:30—Film
«Drôle d'oiseau»
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine
Allo la terre

Programs are subject to change by JTV



Cinema

"DOUBLE HAPPINESS" (New Line, \$95.92): Voted as Best Feature of the year at the Toronto International Film Festival, writer-director Mina Shum's largely Canadian production features Sandra Oh as a young Chinese woman who finds herself caught between her modern desires and her heritage. She fears that if she follows her heart, she'll offend her devoted father, Stephen M.D. Chang also appears. *** (PG-13: AS, P)

"FINAL EQUINOX" (Monarch, \$92.95): A bizarre alien relic known as a "regenerator" becomes the object of a life-or-death pursuit in this science fiction melodrama. To attain its objective of creating life, all existing life forms on Earth must be destroyed ... but the object has been stolen, leading to an intense battle between forces of good and evil; Martin Kove ("Cagney & Lacey") and Joe Lara star. ** (Not rated: AS, P, V)

HELD OVER: "VIRTUOSITY" (Paramount, \$99.12): Denzel Washington gets a formidable foe in this millennium-set thriller, in which he plays an ex-cop recruited to stop a rather unique villain ... a computer-generated fiend (Russell Crowe) who's an assemblage of 200 notorious mass murderers of the past, one of whom claimed the lives of the Washington character's wife and child. Kelly Lynch also is featured. ** (R: AS, P, V)

"HACKERS" (MGM/UA, \$97.51): Another of the entries in the past year's movie race into cyberspace, this suspense tale centers on a young computer expert (Jonny Lee Miller) with a bad reputation ... a situation that makes him the ideal fall guy for a villain (Fisher Stevens) who plans to generate a devastating oil spill via his bits and bytes. Angelina Jolie, daughter of Jon Voight, and Lorraine Bracco co-star. ** (PG-13: AS, P, V)

"RED SCORPION 2" (MCA/Universal, \$92.72): It was Dolph Lundgren the first time around, but in this action sequel, Matt McColm ("They Live") inherits the role of the independent adventurer who has to cross international lines to complete his next mission successfully. Also in the cast are Michael Ironside — seen most recently on "seaQuest 2032" — John Savage and Jennifer Rubin ("The Crush"). ** (R: AS, P, V)

COMING SOON: "ACE VENTURA: WHEN NATURE CALLS" (Warner, March 12): Jim Carrey is back in action, taking his offbeat private eye character to Africa for new adventures. (PG-13)

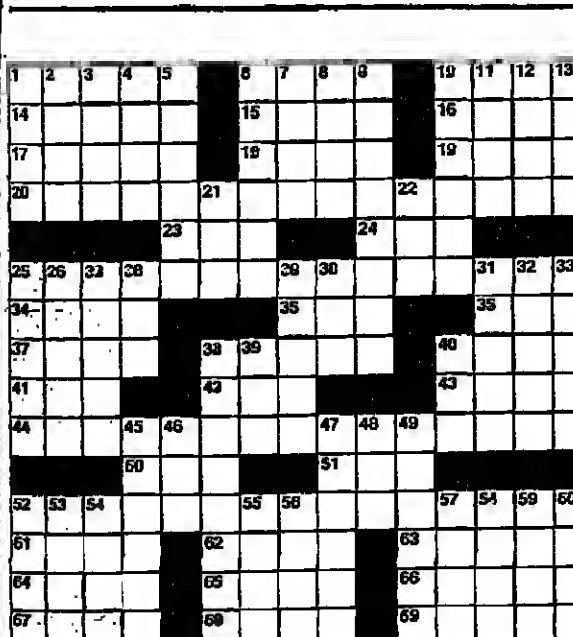
"THE BABY-SITTERS CLUB" (Columbia/TriStar, March 12): Ann M. Martin's popular series of books for youngsters gets live-action treatment here. (PG)

"CLOCKERS" (MCA/Universal, March 12): Spike Lee's drama focuses on a young drug dealer (Mekhi Phifer) whose brother takes a murder rap for him; Harvey Keitel also stars. (R)

FAMILY-VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



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16 "Snowfall," for one
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61 After first, second, and third
62 River in France
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64 Sacred bull
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66 Extreme
67 "Little Women" girl
68 Letter opener
69 Smudge
70 Analytic psychologist
71 White-tailed bird
2 Double-read
3 Promoter's event
4 Before ball or board
5 Formality
6 Engine inventor
7 Rumble
8 Afresh
9 Uncomfortable feelings
10 Smudge
11 Parrot
12 Spleen
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21 Yes, Yves
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24 TNT's kin
25 Biblical beasts
26 Fix, as price
27 One with Hansen's disease
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30 Pound the post
31 Endure use
32 Of an arm
33 Symbolic bird
38 Globular
39 Poet's proposition
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43 Soliloquy start
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49 Place of darkness
52 He married Jezebel
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55 Biblical beasts
56 Hammett sound
57 Halcyon
58 Formal procedure
59 Pound the post
60 Endure use

—THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: You're more sensitive than usual. Learn how to make lots of money out of a little.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Hit the books hard. Your research will pay off. A friend's problem may mess up your plans. Don't be mean, but help a friend accept reality.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Check another income source. Get a friend to help with your research. Attend a meeting and plan a trip with friends.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Replenish your savings by taking on extra work for an older person. Stand up to a narrow-minded bigot and you may make a convert.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Confidential inquiries could lead to the answers you need. Ask questions, too, if you want to know everything.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Team activities take priority. A group decision leads to action later. Finish a tough assignment even if you don't want to.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Help an older person stay on schedule. An expert can help you get needed funds. Your input's important at a club meeting. Contribute time, not money, to a worthy cause.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Talking back to a supervisor could have dire consequences. Don't even think about it; that one can read your mind.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're lucky in love but may lack funds. An old flame may want to rekindle. Obey a dictatorial manager nicely.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A contentious person could provide the answer. Keep a friend and a roommate apart. Sell something for much-needed cash. Obey an older person's orders.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Hours spent on a project will be rewarded. Don't get sidetracked by superfluous data. If you get into a fight, get your friend to referee.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You may fall in love again. Daydreaming at work could cause giggles, so take care. If you need a challenge, ask for it.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). It may be hard to find a quiet place at home. Schedule a private consultation with your favorite counselor. Go ahead and fall hopelessly in love. You'll have to work hard to keep up.

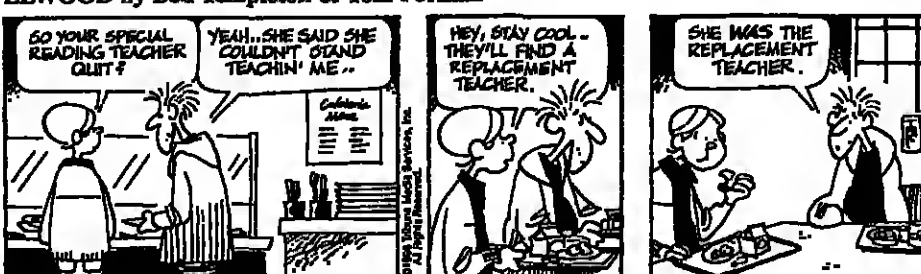
If You're Having a Birthday This Week: The work you do this year is the foundation upon which you'll build your future. Do a good job.

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PERKY & BEANZ by Russell Myers



ELWOOD by Bea Templeton & Tom Forman



CATTISH by Fred Wagner & Tom Cone



Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KAQUE
KNUSK
YANCO
RETTUL

Print answer here: A



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: QUAKE SKUNK CANYON TURTLE

Words of Wisdom

Suspicious breeds deceit.

Human relationships are like art: not everyone has the same taste in people or paintings.

Character comes from conquering weaknesses, not gratifying them.

The greatest gift of all is that which is given with love and sincerity.

Success brings good reputation, and in turn, reputation spawns power.

The human language both liberates us and shackles us to its limitations.

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Bridge

OFFER A CHOICE
By Tannah Hirsch

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 8 4
♥ A K 7 3
♦ Q 5
♣ Q 8 4

WEST
♠ K 3
♥ 9 6 4
♦ 10 7 6 4 3
♣ 9 7 2

EAST
♠ 10 9 5
♥ Q J 10 5
♦ K J 9 2
♣ 10 6

SOUTH
♠ Q 7 6 2
♥ 8 2
♦ A 8
♣ A K J 5 3

The bidding:

South West North East
1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass
1♠ Pass 4NT Pass
5♥ Pass 6♣ Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♦

If you can see that, left alone, declarer is likely to land the contract, do what you must to suggest a more attractive line. Here's what we mean.

We offer no apologies for the auction. Suffice it to say that this hand was dealt near the end of a team match in which North-South were trailing and North felt that drastic action was necessary to retrieve some earlier reversals.

The opening lead set up a trick for the defenders that they would surely cash if they gained the lead while declarer was drawing trumps. Declarer won the ace of diamonds at trick one and led a low trump, fudging the jack.

Had East followed routinely with the five, the rest would have been automatic — and painful for East-West. South would have cashed the ace of trumps to drop the king, drawn the remaining trump and then cashed five clubs for a diamond discard. In all, declarer would have scored four trump tricks and a ruff, two hearts, one diamond and five clubs to land the contract with an overtrick.

This, however, was an expert game, and East dropped the nine without blinking an eyelash. Now declarer had an option — playing East for the bare 10 9 instead of a false card from the actual holding, and there was no way of telling which. Mathematically, there is little to choose between the two lines, but at the table, declarer came to hand with a club and led the queen of spades — down one!

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SLAPSTIX
Never expect anyone but yourself to keep a secret.

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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Pour le 14 juillet, le Star vous ouvre ses pages.
Un supplément spécial en français sera réalisé à l'occasion de la fête nationale de la France.
Une place spéciale est réservée aux entreprises souhaitant profiter de cette opportunité pour faire de la publicité.
Pour tout renseignement, contactez Olivier Bras au Star.
Tel: 645 380 ou 652 380. Fax: 648 298

Un sommet arabe pour la paix

● Avec l'annonce dimanche de la participation du président soudanais Omar el-Béchir, le sommet arabe prévu les 22 et 23 juin au Caire devrait réunir 20 des 22 membres de la Ligue arabe. Seuls deux pays n'ont en effet pas été invités à y participer, la Somalie et l'Irak.
C'est la première fois depuis le mois d'août 1990 et l'invasion du Koweït par l'Irak qu'un sommet arabe rassemble autant de participants.
Son but est de définir un front commun pour soutenir le processus de paix au Moyen-Orient après l'élection du Premier ministre israélien Benjamin Netanyahu.
Yasser Arafat (notre photo) a déclaré qu'il espérait que les dirigeants arabes reconnaîtraient, à l'occasion de ce sommet, officiellement un Etat palestinien avec pour capitale Jérusalem. Ce serait alors la première fois qu'un sommet arabe reconnaît un Etat indépendant en Cisjordanie et dans la bande de Gaza.



SECON

La femme en Jordanie a beaucoup de mérite. Mais l'organisation de notre société la dévalorise et l'écrase sous l'hégémonie de ceux qui sont contents de leur virilité, masquant ainsi leur impotence culturelle et leur infériorité intellectuelle.

Une majorité de Jordanien(ne)s se bat sans relâche pour s'affirmer, et obtenir l'indépendance de la femme. Parents et patrons restent cependant rigides et dépeignent réticents à l'emploi des femmes dans certains domaines en prétendant qu'elles n'ont pas les capacités requises.

La Royale Jordanienne (RJ) a franchement peu d'excuses pour négliger et ignorer nos jeunes Jordanien(ne)s en leur coupant les ailes. Les clients de la RJ peuvent en effet constater que les «hôtesses jordanien(ne)s» ont peu de choses en commun avec le physique moyen-oriental, se croyant plutôt à bord d'un avion de Suisse.

Si la femme jordanienne arrive aujourd'hui à être présente partout, le Jordanien moyen a du mal à accepter que sa fille déserte la maison pour coucher à Paris, d'autant que les pilotes ont une réputation de redoutables «chauds lapins». De son côté, la compagnie nationale prétend que les Jordanien(ne)s boudent ce métier. Mais comment peut-elle expliquer que le salaire offert aux Jordanien(ne)s atteigne le tiers de celui payé aux Irlandaises? Une hôtesse irlandaise encaisse en effet tous les 28 du mois le salaire d'un pilote de ligne jordanien.

L'autre prétexte derrière lequel se cache la RJ porte sur la taille des Jordanien(ne)s. Trop petites, elles ne pourraient pas faire ce travail! Il ne semble pas pourtant que les blondes aux yeux bleus venues du froid et très chères aux yeux des dirigeants de RJ aient la taille des danseuses du crazy-horse. Et par ailleurs, nos équipes de basket-ball ne comptent que des basanées.

On ne peut pas nier le fait que les Moyen-Orientaux aient une préférence pour le déhanchement des blondinettes dans les couloirs étroits des Airbus. Mais ceci ne doit pas être une raison pour disqualifier nos filles.

Avant de rejeter tous les torts sur leur dos, qu'on propose aux Jordanien(ne)s des salaires dignes et équitables! On les lapidra ensuite si elles sont vraiment inférieures aux autres.

Nos hôtesses brunes incompétentes, dont la RJ a honte, nous réconfortent avec leur joliesse et leur accueil chaleureux lors des longues heures de retard incessant qui témoignent du peu de respect de la RJ à l'égard de ses clients.

Certaines de nos filles ont peut-être le vertige, mais le complexe de supériorité associé à l'étroitesse du champ de vision des dirigeants de la RJ, dont la brillante gestion a engendré plus de trois milliards de francs de dettes, compromettent l'image de marque du tourisme national et l'avenir de jolies Jordanien(ne)s à qui il ne manque rien, sois-disant, que quelques centimètres.

Suhail Al Sweis

Rectificatif

La rédaction du Jourdain s'excuse auprès de ses lecteurs d'une regrettable erreur qui s'est glissée dans le «Selon moi» de la semaine dernière. Il s'agissait en effet de «la vague de violence contre les touristes en Egypte et en Turquie», et non «en Egypte et en Jordanie».

Portrait

Une femme prend la robe

A peine un peu plus de 10% du barreau jordanien, les femmes juristes comptent depuis dimanche dans leurs rangs une magistrat, Taghrid Hikmat. Portrait d'une militante qui se bat depuis plus de trente ans pour l'égalité des droits entre les hommes et les femmes.

Le «sexe faible» a finalement réussi à se faire une place au sein des trois pouvoirs du régime constitutionnel jordanien: après l'exécutif et le législatif, la magistrature. Depuis dimanche dernier, la magistrat Taghrid Hikmat a pris ses fonctions au sein du département gouvernemental du Trésor. Astucieuse, habile et persévérante, cette avocate de 51 ans récolte ainsi le fruit des nombreux efforts qu'elle a déployés pour arriver au pouvoir.

Les nombreux obstacles que l'on a mis sur son chemin n'ont pas suffi à la décourager, et elle a fini par étudier la matière dont elle rêvait étant enfant. «Après le bac, dans les années soixante, j'ai eu une bourse pour continuer mes études à Beyrouth. A cette époque, l'idée de laisser une fille partir au Liban, «La Suisse du Moyen-Orient», était tout à fait inacceptable».

Elle est alors entrée au ministère de l'Education en Jordanie, s'inscrivant en même temps à l'Université de Damas pour étudier le droit par correspondance.

En 1982, elle commence à exercer la profession de juriste après 17 années passées au Ministère de l'Education. «Le début de ma carrière de juriste n'était pas difficile. J'ai intégré le cabinet juridique de mes frères spécialisés en affaires civiles et commerciales».

Alors que la constitution de Jordanie considère les deux sexes égaux devant la loi, Taghrid Hikmat constate que seule dans une société masculine, la femme ne peut jamais se hisser en haut de l'échelle sociale. «Dans une telle société domi-

née par des us et coutumes et des conceptions d'un autre âge, la femme n'a pas la même place que l'homme dans l'organisation du travail, simplement parce qu'elle est une femme».

«Personnellement, j'ai eu le courage de poser ma candidature au Conseil juridique. J'ai eu ensuite la chance d'être choisie parmi quatre autres avocates». Elle a aussi bénéficié de l'appui politique des secteurs féministes qui luttent pour l'accession des femmes à des postes de responsabilités dans ce pays. Mais elle a surtout dû prouver ses capacités.

«En 1960, il n'y avait que quatre avocates en Jordanie, qui jouissaient elles-mêmes de peine de leurs droits. Comment pouvaient-elles alors défendre le droit des autres femmes? De plus, l'image de la femme n'était pas celle des années 80. En fait, au cours des vingt dernières années, elle est devenue cultivée, a réalisé qu'elle possédait des droits en tant que femme et en tant que citoyenne, et elle a pu s'affirmer devant l'homme».

Pendant toute cette période, la femme s'est employée à convaincre l'homme qu'elle n'était pas sa rivale mais bien sa partenaire.

«Les privilèges que réclament généralement les associations féministes entraînent des charges supplémentaires pour les femmes. A côté de ses responsabilités professionnelles, elle a celles du foyer. Une situation que connaît bien Taghrid Hikmat, elle même mariée à un officier à la retraite et mère de trois enfants.

«Pour permettre l'égalité entre la femme et l'homme, la loi doit prévoir des aides pour la soutenir, telles que la sécurité sociale, le congé de maternité... Il ne s'agit pas de la gêner, car c'est autant pour elle que pour ses enfants!».



A 51 ans, Taghrid Hikmat est la première femme à occuper les fonctions de magistrat en Jordanie.

Taghrid Hikmat, qui est aussi rapporteuse du Comité national du rassemblement des femmes fondé par la Princesse Basma, souligne l'importance du rôle joué par ce Comité. «La femme, et surtout celle qui vit hors de la capitale, n'a pas encore acquis ses droits. Le Comité fait beaucoup d'efforts pour expliquer aux femmes rurales leurs droits légaux et civiques en organisant des réunions. Ce Comité a déjà réussi à obtenir la réforme de plusieurs lois pour améliorer la condition de la femme, mais il lutte toujours pour que la femme obtienne les mêmes droits».

Un des points les plus importants de cette lutte concerne l'application des lois. «Législation, des droits existent, mais le plus important, c'est leur application dans la

pratique».

Il est incontestable que les quelques femmes choisies dans le passé pour occuper des postes à responsabilités ont prouvé leurs capacités. Et ce depuis 1978, lorsque Inaam Al Mufti a été la première femme à être à la tête d'un ministère, le ministère du Développement social. «Les Jordanien(ne)s parlent toujours de quota pour les femmes au Parlement. Une idée que je refuse de peur qu'elle ouvre la porte à des personnalités non qualifiées. Cependant, il nous faut peut-être accepter cette idée pendant une ou deux sessions parlementaires, jusqu'à ce que la société accepte progressivement la présence de la femme dans la vie politique».

Selon les principes de Taghrid Hikmat, le changement lent et progressif s'avère en effet toujours plus efficace, et plus durable.

Oroub el Abed

Enseignement

La bibliothèque se livre

Si des milliers d'étudiants passent chaque jour devant la bibliothèque de l'université de Jordanie, beaucoup oublient de s'y arrêter, passant ainsi à côté d'un lieu renfermant de nombreuses richesses.

Construite en 1962, la bibliothèque de l'université de Jordanie abrite aujourd'hui près de 229 000 livres en arabe et 219 000 dans diverses langues étrangères. Un nombre impressionnant d'ouvrages répartis sur trois étages, dans quatre salles différentes.

Plus grande bibliothèque de Jordanie, elle dispose de certains atouts qui lui permettent d'occuper une place importante dans le monde arabe. Elle est par exemple le seul centre de thèses regroupant des travaux venant de toutes les universités affiliées à l'Union des universités arabes. On trouve ainsi au hasard des rayonnages certaines thèses en français, rédigées par des étudiants de l'université Houari Boumédiène d'Algérie.

Elle est aussi la seule à recueillir l'ensemble des publications de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. Une documentation volumineuse classée pays par pays dans laquelle sont aussi archivées les comptes-rendus du Conseil de sécurité.

Au premier étage, la salle hachémite regroupe l'ensemble des ouvrages s'intéressant à la Jordanie, avec une section spéciale pour la famille royale. Juste à côté se trouve la pièce de la ville sainte qui rassemble toutes les publications traitant du problème palestinien. Elle côtoie symboliquement la section réservée aux études hébraïques.

Deux petites portes intriguent le visiteur qui quitte la salle hachémite. L'une d'elles donne accès à «la salle interdite». Pour y pénétrer, une autorisation spéciale est nécessaire. Difficile de connaître exactement les secrets qu'elle renferme. Les livres qu'elle abrite sont pour la plupart de

nature politique, et seuls certains étudiants ont le privilège de les manipuler.

La deuxième porte protège elle des ouvrages beaucoup moins sensibles. Il s'agit en fait de livres assez vieux, ou d'exemplaires uni-ques. Une collection hétéroclite parmi laquelle se cachent des publications en français, certaines datant de la fin du siècle dernier.

Un nouveau bâtiment à l'étude

La bibliothèque n'est pas simplement réservée aux étudiants. Elle est ouverte à tous, contre un abonnement annuel de 10 dinars, auxquels s'ajoutent une caution de 50 dinars.

Son financement est assuré par l'université qui prend aussi en charge le salaire des 112 employés y travaillant. Malgré un budget assez serré, elle envisage aujourd'hui de procéder à différentes transformations.

Elle compte informatiser son système d'archivage. En mettant des consoles informatiques à la disposition des utilisateurs,

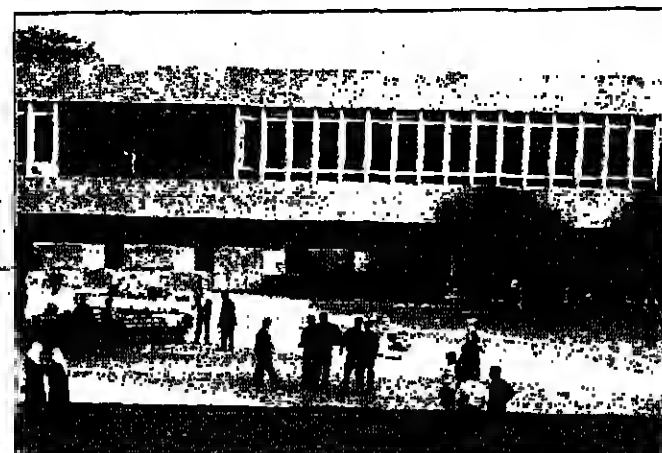
elle leur permettra ainsi de savoir rapidement où se trouve un ouvrage, ou, par exemple, de le rechercher à partir du nom de son auteur. L'introduction d'un système «barre-codes» est lui aussi à l'étude.

Mais le projet principal concerne l'agrandissement de la bibliothèque. En 1997, un nouveau bâtiment devrait voir le jour, juste à côté de l'actuelle bibliothèque pour un coût estimé à environ 250 000 dinars.

La bibliothèque a en fait du mal à se faire connaître auprès de ses principaux destinataires, les étudiants. Beaucoup se contentent en effet d'utiliser les photocopies installées au sous-sol sans prendre le temps de s'intéresser aux richesses qu'elle contient. «Beaucoup d'étudiants n'ont pas la curiosité de lire», explique un des employés. «Les salles ne sont pleines qu'au moment des examens».

Une époque où la bibliothèque perd sa tranquillité habituelle pour se transformer en véritable ruine.

Hanan Frige



Construite en 1962, la bibliothèque de l'université de Jordanie est la plus grande du pays.

Société

Le football fait déborder les cafés

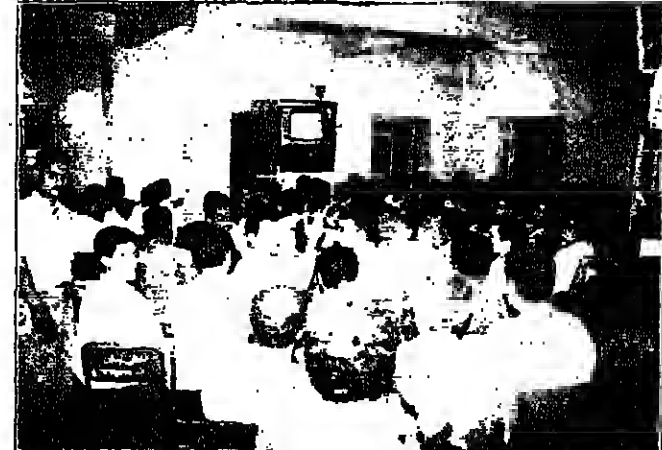
Depuis le coup d'envoi de l'Euro 96 donné le 8 juin dernier, les cafés de basse-ville connaissent une affluence record. Des rassemblements qui ont lieu à chaque nouveau match de football.

Les cafés de basse-ville ne désespèrent pas depuis une dizaine de jours. Dans un nuage de narguilles, les rangées de chaises orientées vers la télévision se multiplient.

Plusieurs fois par jour, tous les passionnés de foot de la capitale se retrouvent pour assister aux matchs du championnat d'Europe qui se déroule actuellement en Angleterre. Une telle foule pour des rencontres qui n'opposent que des équipes européennes peut surprendre. Mais en fait, les Jordanien(ne)s passionnés pour le foot, peu importe la compétition, ils souhaitent surtout voir un beau spectacle, s'intéressant moins aux acteurs qui évoluent sur la pelouse.

Ils ont tout de même bien sûr certaines préférences dans cet Euro-96. En général, les pays les plus proches de la Méditerranée sont les plus appréciés, tels que l'Italie ou l'Espagne. Cela dépend aussi de la présence ou non de joueurs d'origine arabe dans les équipes.

Ainsi, le Français Zinedine



Chaque nouveau match attire beaucoup d'amateurs de football dans les cafés de basse-ville.

Zidane jouit d'une grosse cote de popularité. Il la partage avec son co-équipier Christophe Dugarry. Avec la prononciation des commentateurs locaux, son nom est en effet devenu «Dougri», que l'on peut traduire par «tout droit». Peut-on rêver d'un plus joli nom pour un buteur?

Cette effervescence autour du ballon rond devrait durer encore dix jours, jusqu'à la finale prévue le 20 juin.

Les amateurs de football auront alors à peine un mois pour se reposer, jusqu'aux phases éliminatoires du Championnat d'Asie qui auront lieu à Amman entre la Jordanie, l'Irak et le Pakistan. Une atmosphère encore plus chaude en perspective!

Olivier Bras

C'est la vie

L'agenda français d'Amman

Vidéo

Hommage à Krzysztof Kieslowski, cinéaste polonais décédé en mars dernier. Ce n'est qu'après vingt ans d'activité que ce réalisateur polonais connaît une véritable reconnaissance internationale avec «La double vie de Véronique» en 1991. Il devient ensuite un hôte privilégié de la France et se lance dans un tryptique, «Trois couleurs: Rouge» (1993-1994) qui déclina la symbolique de 1789 (Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité). «Bleu», 1ère partie de sa trilogie, le 24 juin à 20h au Centre culturel français.

Exposition

Raïc Majzoub, jeune artiste d'origine palestinienne, expose ses toiles jusqu'au 27 juin au CCF.

Cinéma

«My father the hero» avec Gérard Depardieu. Au cinéma Plaza en version anglaise, sous-titrée en français et arabe. Séances à 12h30, 15h30, 17h00, 18h30, 20h30, 22h30. Tel: 677 420.

Découverte

Quatre Belges racontent leur histoire

Amateurs de voyages, quatre Belges se sont lancés voilà une dizaine de mois dans un voyage Bruxelles-Saïgon en voiture, à bord de deux vieilles «2 CV» Citroën. Une épopée au cours de laquelle ils ont joué «les bâtisseurs de rêves» et les «jumeleurs d'écoles».

Si la liaison Paris-Dakar n'évoque plus aujourd'hui beaucoup d'aventure mais bien plus une course folle où des pilotes ont à peine le temps d'apercevoir les pays qu'ils traversent, le trajet Bruxelles-Dakar est lui plus surprenant. Un parcours que quatre Belges ont décidé de suivre. Non pas à bord de bolides rutilants mais avec deux «2 CV break», des Aca 400, qui atteignent péniblement les 60 km/h.

Le projet initial de ces quatre aventuriers était de relier Bruxelles à Saïgon en dix mois, puis d'abandonner leurs véhicules au Vietnam pour rentrer en avion en Belgique. Mais ils ont dû adapter leur périple aux différents obstacles douaniers. Après avoir perdu beaucoup de temps à l'espérance d'obtenir des visas, ils ont finalement décidé de mettre le cap par la mer sur Akaba.

«Nous avons complètement démonté les voitures à Dhibouti pour les faire tenir dans un conteneur», explique Serge, 26 ans. Après une journée de «reconstruction», ils ont ensuite continué leur voyage dans le Proche-Orient, avant de prendre un avion pour l'Asie. Les voitures sont elles restées deux

mois dans la capitale jordanienne. Ils les ont retrouvées au début du mois de juin pour prendre cette fois la direction du retour, via la Syrie, le Liban puis l'Europe de l'Est.

«Nous n'avions pas du tout prévu de rentrer avec nos voitures. Mais en fait, c'est très bien pour beaucoup d'élèves belges qui ont suivi pendant dix mois les aventures de «Palu» et «Nha», nos deux voitures», explique Thomas, 26 ans. Tout au long de leur voyage, les quatre routards ont en effet publié un journal, «L'école buissonnière», qui racontait leurs aventures. En Belgique, des amis à eux se chargeaient de mettre en page les photos et les textes qu'ils recevaient par modem, et de distribuer ce journal dans de nombreuses écoles.

Une trentaine de jumelages

Le but de ce voyage était aussi de jumeler plus d'une trentaine d'écoles primaires belges à des écoles francophones. Des jumelages réalisés surtout avec des pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest, mais aussi au Tchad, au Vietnam, au Cambodge et au Liban.

Cette balade en voiture aura amené ces quatre voyageurs à



Entre Bruxelles et Amman, ces quatre amateurs de voyages ont parcouru plus de 27 000 kilomètres en voiture.

traverser une trentaine de pays et à parcourir des milliers de kilomètres de piste. Les crevaisons ont bien sûr été fréquentes. Mais jusqu'à Amman, ils n'ont pas connu de gros problèmes mécaniques, alors que leurs voitures ont chacune plus d'une vingtaine d'années. Le fait de voyager à bord de ces «antiquités» leur a en fait ouvert pas mal de portes. «Il y a beaucoup de vieilles voitures d'occasion qui circulent en Afrique», explique Marc. «Mais les noirs faisaient rire les gens car elles étaient encore plus vieilles que les leurs. Certains ont proposé de nous les acheter, pensant que s'ils avaient été capables de venir de Bruxelles, elle pouvaient bien rouler encore un bon bout de temps».

Tous les quatre sont unanimes pour dire que le secret des passages de frontière est très simple: avoir le sourire et se montrer patient. Une recette qui leur a permis de se rendre pratiquement partout où ils le souhaitaient et d'y recevoir bon accueil.

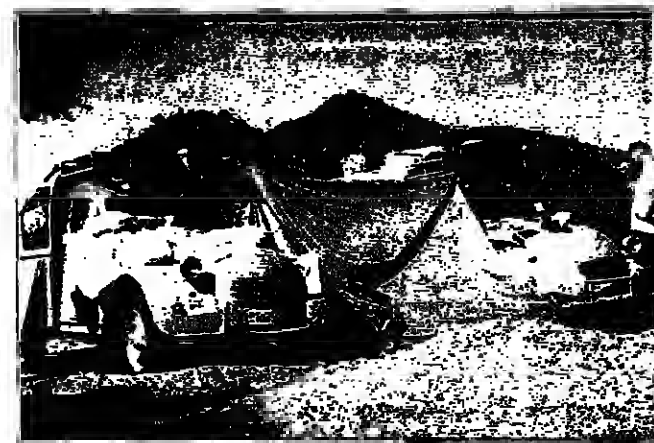
Selon eux, c'est d'ailleurs en Jordanie qu'ils ont été les mieux reçus et qu'ils ont rencontré le moins de difficultés pour accomplir différentes démarches

administratives.

Ils ramènent de cette expérience de nombreux souvenirs, et aussi pas mal d'images. Thomas Couplet et Marc Debacker, qui ont tous deux une formation de cameraman, rentrent avec beaucoup de photos et de nombreuses heures de bande vidéo. Serge, le frère de Marc, était lui responsable de leur publication itinérante. Quant à Bruno De Ponthier, 42 ans, il s'est lui plus particulièrement occupé de l'aspect pédagogique de ce projet. Instituteur en Belgique, il a rencontré ses compagnons de voyage par le biais d'une petite annonce. Il avait envie de faire une coupure d'une année dans son travail et s'est laissé tenter par l'aventure.

Pour tous les quatre, le retour en Belgique représente une nouvelle aventure après dix mois de vadrouille. Attendus dans le petit village de Mont Saint Guibert le 26 juin à 11h, ils vont mettre fin à leurs activités de «bâtisseurs de rêves» et de «jumeleurs d'écoles». Du moins jusqu'au prochain projet de voyage.

Olivier Bras



Aussi utiles sur la route que pendant le bivouac, les deux «2 CV» ont tenu le coup jusqu'au bout.

Activities

Royal Cultural Centre	661026/7	Concord Cinema	677420
American Centre Library	820101	Plaza Cinema	699238
British Council	636147/8	Philadelphia Cinema	634144
French Cultural Centre	637009		
Goethe Institute	641993	Sports Clubs	
Cervantes Institute (Spanish)	610858	Al Hussein Sports City	667181/5
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777	Orthodox Club	810491
Rayat Arts Centre	665195	Royal Automobile Club	815410
Y.W.C.A.	641793	Royal Shooting Club	736572
Dance at Funon	664251	Royal Chess Club	673713
Alia Art Gallery	643352	Royal Racing Club	09-801233
Baladna Art Gallery	639303	Jordan Bridge Club	676990
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STATION
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The Internet and economic theory in publishing: Cyber-perspectives on old 'paper cost' issues

By Jawad Abbassi
Special to The Writer

THE INTERNET has already made its profound impact on telecommunications in the world. Its cost effective and reliable email has undoubtedly changed telecommunications forever; distances no longer matter since an email to China costs the same as an email to the US. Traditional telex and fax services may virtually become obsolete as a result.

Recently, the Internet seems to be also posing new challenges to well established theories on the economics of business operations, namely, the economies of scale and the law of diminishing returns.

The publishing industry is a brilliant example for this. In order to publish a magazine or a book through the classical paper manner, an initial and relatively high investment in preparing the color separation and the printing plates is required. Thus economies of scale have to be utilized to distribute the high cost over the bulk of issues published to reduce cost per unit.

This works up to a certain limit when the law of diminishing returns kicks in, and the cost savings in printing more issues start to decrease until a point beyond which the cost per unit would start to increase again. The same law of diminishing returns also applies to distributing the printed material.

The Internet's World Wide Web—the latest introduction in the Internet which allows for attractive display of text, illustrations and pictures—has spurred a boom in Internet publishing. Already there are more than 800 newspapers that publish

associated extra costs in a popular web site's expanding its hits (that being the number of people who browsed the site) in an exponential manner.

Unlike in paper based publications, electronic web publications have no transporting or printing costs. On the Internet, the reader in Australia visits the site of, say, the *Financial Times* in London rather than having to get a printed copy shipped across oceans.

The success story of software companies like Netscape—maker of the renowned Internet browser—and id—maker of the Doom II computer game—offer further evidence on the fading away of diminishing returns law on the Internet. These two companies—and many others—have virtually eliminated transportation and packaging costs through distributing their software on the Internet. In addition, the massive and almost free advertisement through their presence on the Internet, have allowed these two companies to markedly increase distribution with almost no extra cost.

One of software's brilliant features is the ability to produce perfect copies and to download almost any part of the world, through the simple step of electronically publishing its editions on the World Wide Web.

In the case of Internet, the law of diminishing returns may as well be called the law of diminishing barriers and costs.

Looking once again at the publishing industry, the Internet and its modification of old theo-



electronic issues on the Internet in addition to a multitude of university brochures, advertisement leaflets and political manifestos.

This boom in publishing on the Internet has focused the attention on the striking inapplicability of old business economy theories, as represented by the very low cost of publishing on the Internet. All that is needed is a Web authoring software. This renders the need for economies of scale redundant as the low cost justifies publishing, even if the readership of any certain publication remains low. More importantly, the Law of diminishing returns almost disappears and is substituted by that of increasing returns: There are no

barriers and costs.

One of software's brilliant features is the ability to produce perfect copies and to download almost any part of the world, through the simple step of electronically publishing its editions on the World Wide Web.

In the case of Internet, the law of diminishing returns may as well be called the law of diminishing barriers and costs.

A project of learning and enlightenment, from the West Bank: Birzeit University launches its site on the WWW

ON 6 June 1996, Birzeit University, located in the Palestinian West Bank, connected its webserver to the Internet. Within a few hours, the first hit was registered from a user at the University of Missouri.

Despite thousands of new website launches every day, the Birzeit website is significant for a number of reasons.

First, there is a very limited amount of Internet information coming out of Palestine, from Palestinian organisations, just as there is a limited amount of Internet information flowing from the South to the North.

The Birzeit Website aims to be one part of the restoration of this imbalance. Secondly, Birzeit University is a leading Palestinian institution, known worldwide for its commitment to the principles of academic freedom and democracy.

It's website will reflect this. Also, as Palestinians are beginning to discover the power of

the Web, some interesting projects are certainly going to turn up.

The Birzeit University Website is split into four sections. The first section offers brief information about Birzeit University—Introduction, Historical Background, International Relations, Courses and Programmes for Internationals, the Birzeit Campus and its Facilities, University Research Centres and other Community-related Programmes, Student Life, University Publications, Academic Requirements, Fees and Financial Aid and the Academic Programme.

Its second part is called 'Birzeit and the World Wide Web' and provides a brief history of information technology in Palestine, a look at Birzeit's Website development and where it is going.

In addition, it provides information on the software used to create Birzeit's Website, Web

training at Birzeit, notes on using the Birzeit Website and the people involved in the construction of the site.

The third part is 'Birzeit University Archives' which offers Birzeit Newsletter Archive, Birzeit Human Rights Archive, Birzeit Photographic Archive and Friends of Birzeit University (UK).

Coming soon are Birzeit Press Release Archive and Birzeit Development Archive.

Fourth is 'The Palestine Archive' offering information on Palestinian Architecture (RTWAQ), Palestinian School Education (EdNet) and a Personal Diary.

Funding is currently being sought for the Palestine Archive project.

For more details, contact email address: pr@admin.birzeit.edu. You can check out Birzeit's site on the World Wide Web at address: <http://www.birzeit.edu>.

News update

Ideal Systems & STS hold a seminar on 'Apple Multimedia'

● In cooperation with Arab Business Machines (ABM), the regional dealers for Dubai-based Apple Computer, the two Jordanian Apple distributors—Ideal Systems and Specialized Technical Services (STS)—held two seminars on how to best utilize the multimedia capabilities offered by Apple Macintosh.

Mr Ghassan Bandali of ABM was the official who spoke at both seminars.

The first seminar was on 'Multimedia for the Consumer Market' and focused on the software available and its ease of use.

ries, can provide any local newspaper with the means to triple or quadruple its readership and expand its geographical stretch to almost any part of the world, through the simple step of electronically publishing its editions on the World Wide Web.

In the case of Internet, the law of diminishing returns may as well be called the law of diminishing barriers and costs.

Jawad Abbassi can be reached on email: abbassi@nets.com.jo

The second seminar was on 'Professional Multimedia on Apple Macintosh' and covered the capabilities of advanced software packages like Macromind to prepare impressive demonstrations.

These seminars are part of ABM's efforts to highlight and re-affirm Apple's leading role in the multimedia market. The attending audience was impressed by the comprehensive multimedia solutions on offer from Apple.

At these two events, Ideal Systems and STS provided special price offers for Apple Multimedia bundles.

SSC Internet Workshop

● Special Systems Co. (SSC) is holding an Internet Workshop, as part of the company's training activities at its accredited Microsoft Authorized Training Center. To register, contact Mr Mudar Belsai at SSC on telephone 664221 or email address SSC@NETS.COM.JO.

Quality data analysis with SPSS

● SPSS, the leading supplier of desktop statistical analysis tools worldwide, is providing a special offer for a limited period, ending 30 June, 1996, by

which customers will be able to purchase the SPSS package at £495, providing a saving of £200 on the regular list price.

Organizations may utilize data analysis to help make better decisions. Analyzing raw data leads to effective working knowledge and better decision making. SPSS claims to provide all the desktop analysis tools needed to access, manipulate and present your data. SPSS is available on standard interfaces such as Microsoft Windows 3.1, Windows 95, Windows NT, Macintosh and UNIX.

For more information contact your local SPSS dealer, or SPSS in the United Kingdom at telephone +44 1483 719200.

Newton MessagePad speaks to the Internet

● With the growing trend to hook up all electronic devices to the Internet, Apple is introducing an Internet Kit for the Apple Newton, the company's popular Digital Personal Assistant (PDA). The kit will be available to developers this month, and is expected to support a number of different communication protocols. With this development, PDA's will take one step further towards providing the complete functionality offered by desktop and notebook PCs.

Euro '96 English teach Dutch a lesson

ENGLAND'S SENSATIONAL 4-1 victory over the Netherlands on Tuesday gained it a berth in the quarterfinals of the European Championship, but the late goal by substitute Patrick Kluivert got the Dutch there as well.

France and Spain also made it to the quarterfinals while Bulgaria, which reached the World Cup semifinal two years ago, didn't advance.

Before 76,000 fans at Wembley, Alan Shearer and Teddy Sheringham scored two goals each to crush the Dutch. Shearer netted his first from the penalty spot in the 21st minute and then England scored three times in a 10-minute spurt in the second half.

Kluivert, who entered the game 18 minutes from the end, scored five minutes later and

that goal was enough to knock out Scotland, which downed Switzerland 1-0 at Villa Park.

The Dutch and the Scots wound up tied in points and the Dutch survived solely because they had scored more goals in the Group A games.

"We are still alive," a relieved Dutch coach Guus Hiddink said. "The English taught us a lesson in all aspects of the game."

—in defense, in offense. They had four or five opportunities to score and took most of them."

Ally McCoist scored Scotland's first goal of the championship but it wasn't enough to put the team through for the

first time in its history. France downed the Bulgarians 3-1 at Newcastle, with defender Laurent Blanc scoring the first goal in the 20th minute before he forced an own goal by Bulgarian striker Luboslav Penev in the 63rd minute. Substitute Patrice Loko scored in the final minute.

Hristo Stojichkov curled home a free kick for Bulgaria in the 68th minute to make it three goals in three games.

The result meant France stretched its unbeaten streak to 25 games, which goes back to a World Cup qualifying game loss to the Bulgarians in November 1993.

In another Group B game, a diving header by substitute Guillermo Amor with seven minutes to play gave Spain a 2-1 victory over Romania, which already had been eliminated. Javier Manjarin gave Spain the lead after 11 minutes before Florin Raducioiu replied for

Romania's first and only goal of the tournament in the 29th minute.

Romania v. Bulgaria
Romania confirmed that it will be lodging an official protest to UEFA about the "goal" they scored, but which was not given, during their 1-0 Euro '96 group B defeat by Bulgaria on Thursday.

An official letter of protest was handed to UEFA later on Friday, following meetings of Romania's soccer federation officials.

The disallowed goal incident came after 31 minutes of Thursday's match at St. James' Park when a powerful shot by Dorinel Munteanu thundered off the bar and bounced down behind the line.

Danish referee Peter Mikkelsen and the linesman closest to the action, Henning Knudsen, both ignored claims by the Romanians that they had scored. Romanian midfielder George Hagi led the protests, but they were waved away.

If Romania had equalized at that time, it might have changed the shape of the game and helped them achieve the result they needed to stay in the tournament.

"The referee did not even consult the linesman and I was astonished at this. It was amazing that they did not think it was worth discussing or analyzing this incident," Hagi said.

Denmark v. Croatia
After a sobering 3-0 defeat by Croatia, the Danes were resigned to losing their hard-earned European crown. "It's very difficult to talk about the quarterfinals when you have lost 3-0," said veteran playmaker Michael Laudrup on Monday.

"Now we will play for our honor and go for a win so that we finish third with four points rather than last."

Denmark, who surprised even themselves when they were crowned champions in Sweden in 1992, met Turkey in Sheffield on Wednesday in their final Euro '96 group D match with only a slim mathematical chance of qualifying for

the last eight.

Goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel said he was disappointed with the Danish team's reaction to falling behind.

"We were unable to shift from defense to attack," Schmeichel said. "Maybe we're not good enough."

Czechs v. Italy

Czech coach Dusan Uhrin cancelled a scheduled training session and gave his players a day off on Saturday after their unexpected 2-1 Euro '96 victory over Italy on Friday.

Italy's defeat threw group C wide open, but Uhrin said it was not a complete surprise to him. "I expected the (Czech) team to play much better than against Germany. Italy played just as they did against Russia. It depends on the other team what they allow Italy to do."

The game was played before a lively capacity crowd on a day in which Euro '96's gloomiest man was probably Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi.

Roasted at home by the newspapers—and even by Mafia boss Salvatore Riina—for changing a winning lineup and losing to the Czech Republic on Friday, Sacchi was left to ponder his team's chances against favorites Germany on Wednesday.

Uhrin said he was not afraid his team would lose their concentration for the crunch game against Russia at Anfield on Wednesday. "There is too much at stake," he said.

He has to make at least one change in the line-up against Russia as captain and sweeper Miroslav Kladec will be suspended after receiving a second yellow card.

"We have three options at sweeper," he said, naming Lubos Kubik, Jan Suchoparek and Vaclav Nemecek.

Germany v. Russia
Favorites Germany beat 10-man Russia 3-0 on Sunday to virtually guarantee themselves a place in the Euro '96 quarterfinals. The win was their second of the tournament and reinforced their position as leaders of group C.



Alan Shearer scoring the opening goal for England from the penalty spot during the England v Holland Group A match at the 1996 European Football Championships at Wembley Stadium, London.

Ross Kinnaird/ALLSPORT

Matthias Sammer slid home the first in the 56th minute after his initial shot had been blocked. Skipper Juergen Klinsmann became the first player to score in three successive European championships when he drove the second into the roof of the net in the 77th minute. He added his second in injury time.

The Russians were reduced to 10 men in the 71st minute when Yuri Kovtun became the fourth man sent off in the tournament for a late tackle on Dieter Eilts. The Russians, without a point from their two opening group C matches, had looked the more likely side to break the deadlock during the first half stalemate.

Holland v. Switzerland
Jordi Cruyff stepped out of the shadow of his famous father with his first international goal in the Netherlands' 2-0 victory over Switzerland at Euro '96 on Thursday and won immediate praise from coach Guus Hiddink.

The Barcelona player, son of former Dutch star Johan Cruyff who delighted fans with his silky skills in the 1970s, scored a fine second-half goal in only his fifth international to set the Dutch on their way to victory.

Cruyff's 66th minute goal broke the deadlock in a tight game and allowed the Dutch to

INTERFACE BY ZEID NASSER

It's a small world after all

IT'S INTERESTING to find how the Internet has made the world a much smaller place for everyone, including Jordanians abroad.

What brings about this thought are the many comments you hear nowadays from friends and families who live or study in the US, Europe or even Australia.

"Yes, I read that Interface column of yours about 'Internet in Jordan' last month!", stated a cousin of mine, who studies in the United States, but makes it a daily ritual to examine the contents of Arabia On-Line, the service at which *The Star* and *Ad Dustour* are available, published on a timely basis.

As pleasing as that may be, there was something even more interesting that I heard from a friend the other day. She said that, as a Jordanian student in the United Kingdom, she got all the information she needed from a news group, based in the United States called, *Jordan News*.

Apparently, the news group administrator found some of my Interface articles as befitting for inclusion in the news group round-up on several occasions. My friend was surprised and glad about that, and accordingly reported these incidents to me.

This news group has been up and running for about two years now. I have been told, it includes a well gathered brief of clippings from the Jordanian press. It's prepared by a Jordanian living in the United States and even provides chat zones and forums for interaction among users who are mainly a mix of Jordanians living abroad and foreigners interested in Jordanian issues.

How are these clippings received on time, well through the electronic editions of Jordanian newspapers, like *The Star*, of course. Also, through the latest sites established by *Peira*, Jordan's official news agency, and *Al Rai* newspaper.

It seems that news on Jordan is so much easier to get hold of today, thanks to the Internet, than was the case just a couple of years ago. This is great news for Jordanians abroad.

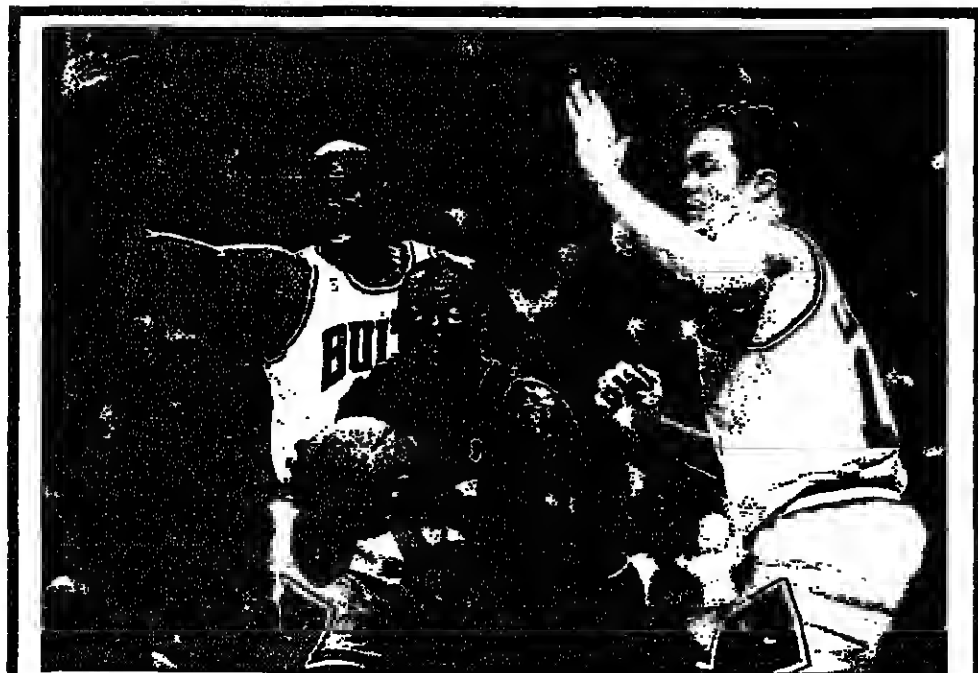
It's also great news for writers. It makes you feel that there is a whole world of readers out there. Getting back to my friend, she said that users on *Jordan News* were debating the Likud's election win in Israel during last month. What she didn't know was that this was a raging debate among users on NETS, the local bulletin board service. Users on *Jordan News* and users on NETS are unaware of the similarities in their debates. They are also, for technical reasons, held apart each in a separate on-line world of their own.

There are, of course, rather simple methods to shift messages to and forth between an international news group and a local BBS service. But, they are not very practical methods, especially when compared to the openness and inter-activity that should be provided.

Still, it would be really interesting if the opinions of 'Jordanians outside' could mix more with 'Jordanians inside'. That way, you would have more variety in discussions about local matters, on the one hand, and their would be important input on world issues from those abroad. That way, a message you post on a relatively small, local BBS in Jordan, could be seen by the whole world. Users from all over the globe can monitor your every move, and comment on it from tens of thousands of miles away.

I'm sure this situation will produce even more of those 'controversial' articles published in international media, like the *Newsweek* and *BusinessWeek* articles published about the political views Jordanians have displayed on local BBS services. In any case, this is what the Internet and the on-line world are all about, bringing people closer to the source of information and providing much better dissemination of information. In a way, the Internet era makes you truly understand that maybe it's really 'a small world after all.'

Zeid_Nasser@NETS.COM.JO



16 June: Seattle Supersonics Shawn Kemp works to the basket between Chicago Bulls Michael Jordan and Luc Longley during fourth quarter action of game six of the NBA Finals at the United Center in Chicago, Illinois. The Bulls went on to defeat the Seattle Supersonics 87-75 to win the 1996 NBA Finals.

Jonathan Daniel/ALLSPORT